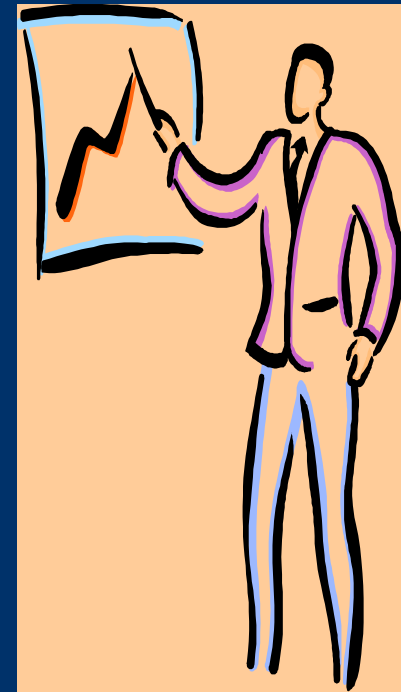
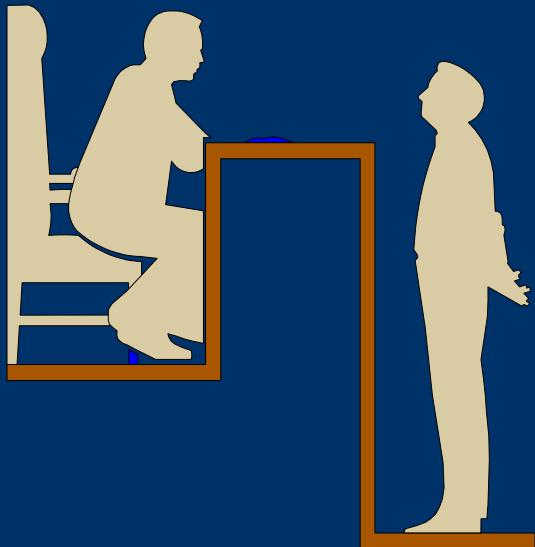


Back to the Future: Best Practices in Drug Courts

Shannon Carey, Ph.D.

NPC Research



Back to the Future

Best Practices in Business

Donald



**But, honestly, do we
really need all of this
rigmarole???**

Meta-Analyses

Citation	Institution	Number of Drug Courts	Crime Reduced on <u>Avg.</u> by . . .
Wilson et al. (2006)	Campbell Collaborative	55	14% to 26%
Latimer et al. (2006)	Canada Dept. of Justice	66	14%
Shaffer (2006)	University of Nevada	76	9%
Lowenkamp et al. (2005)	University of Cincinnati	22	8%
Aos et al. (2006)	Washington State Inst. for Public Policy	57	8%

Cost Analyses

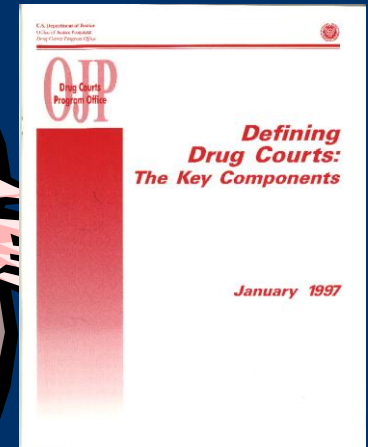
Citation	No. Drug Courts	<u>Avg. Benefit Per \$1 Invested</u>	<u>Avg. Cost Saving Per Client</u>
Loman (2004)	1 (St. Louis)	\$2.80 to \$6.32	\$2,615 to \$7,707
Finigan et al. (2007)	1 (Portland, OR)	\$2.63	\$11,000
Carey et al. (2006)	9 (California)	\$3.50	\$6,744 to \$12,218
Barnoski & Aos (2003)	5 (Washington St.)	\$1.74	\$2,888
Aos et al. (2006)	National Data	N/A	\$4,767
Bhati et al. (2008)	National Data	\$2.21	N/A

Cost Analyses

Citation	No. Drug Components		
Loman (2008)			
			\$11,000
		\$1.74	\$2,888
Aos (2008)	National Data	N/A	\$4,767
Bhati et al. (2008)	National Data	\$2.21	N/A

Yes, but can we get along with just 8 Key Components, or maybe even 6 or 7?

1997 Anno Domini



The Key Components are . . .

- Old (1997)



The Key Components are . . .

- Old (1997)
- Expensive



The Key Components are . . .

- Old (1997)
- Expensive
- **Complicated**



The Key Components are . . .

- Old (1997)
- Expensive
- Complicated
- **Stifling**



The Key Components are . . .

- Old (1997)
- Expensive
- Complicated
- Stifling
- **Divisive**



The Key Components are . . .

- Old (1997)
- Expensive
- Complicated
- Stifling
- Divisive
- Non-empirical !



... Until Now:

*Shannon Carey et al. (2008). *Exploring the key components of drug courts: A comparative study of 18 adult drug courts on practices, outcomes and costs*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

*Shannon Carey et al. (2008). *Drug courts and state mandated drug treatment programs: Outcomes, costs and consequences*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

*Michael Finigan et al. (2007). *The impact of a mature drug court over 10 years of operation: Recidivism and costs*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

Deborah Shaffer (2006). *Reconsidering drug court effectiveness: A meta-analytic review*. Las Vegas, NV: Dept. of Criminal Justice, University of Nevada.

* www.npcresearch.com

Key Component #1

*“Realization of these [rehabilitation] goals requires a **team approach**, including cooperation and collaboration of the judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation authorities, other corrections personnel, law enforcement, pretrial services agencies, TASC programs, evaluators, an array of local service providers, and the greater community.”*

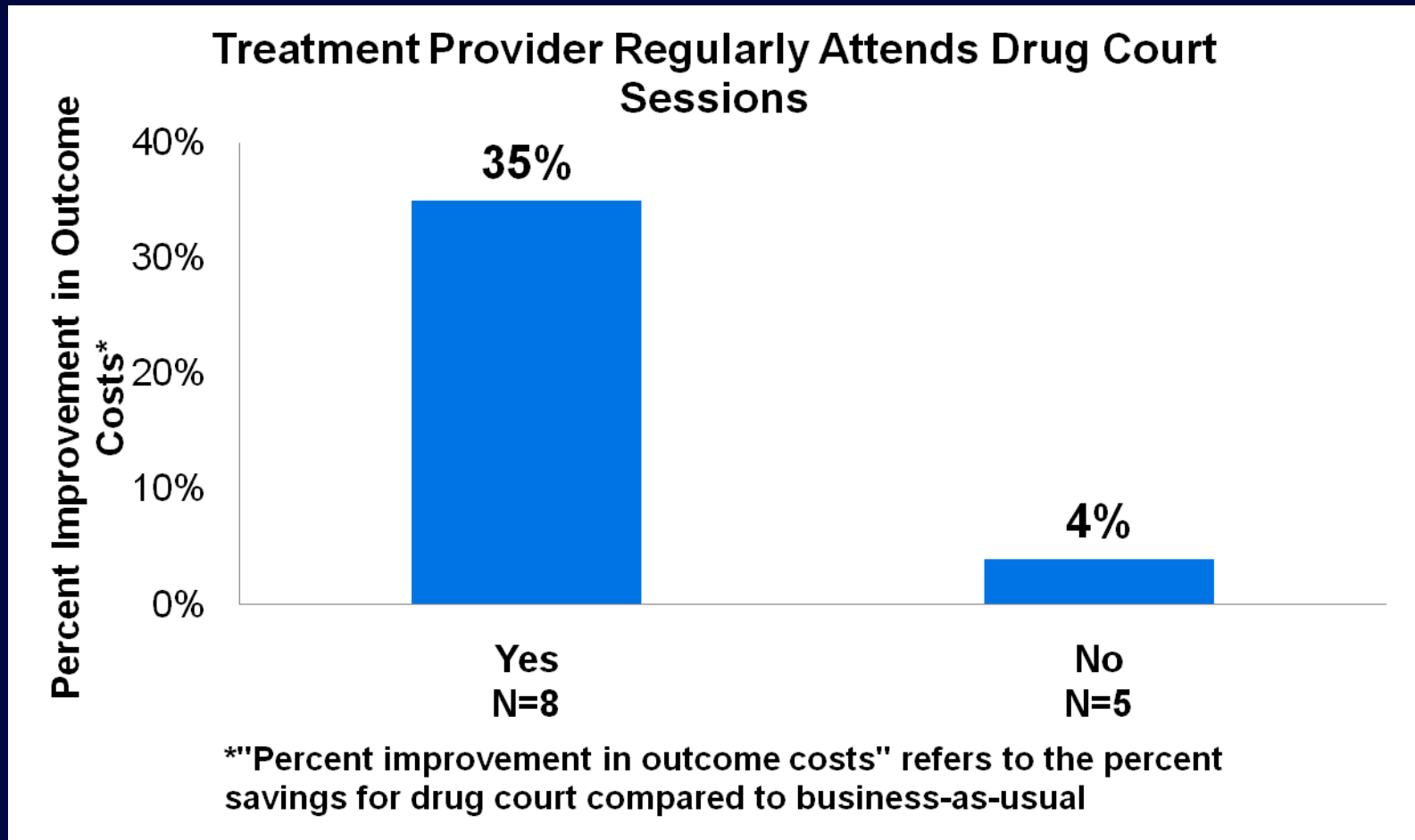
Team Involvement

- Does it matter if the treatment provider attends court sessions?



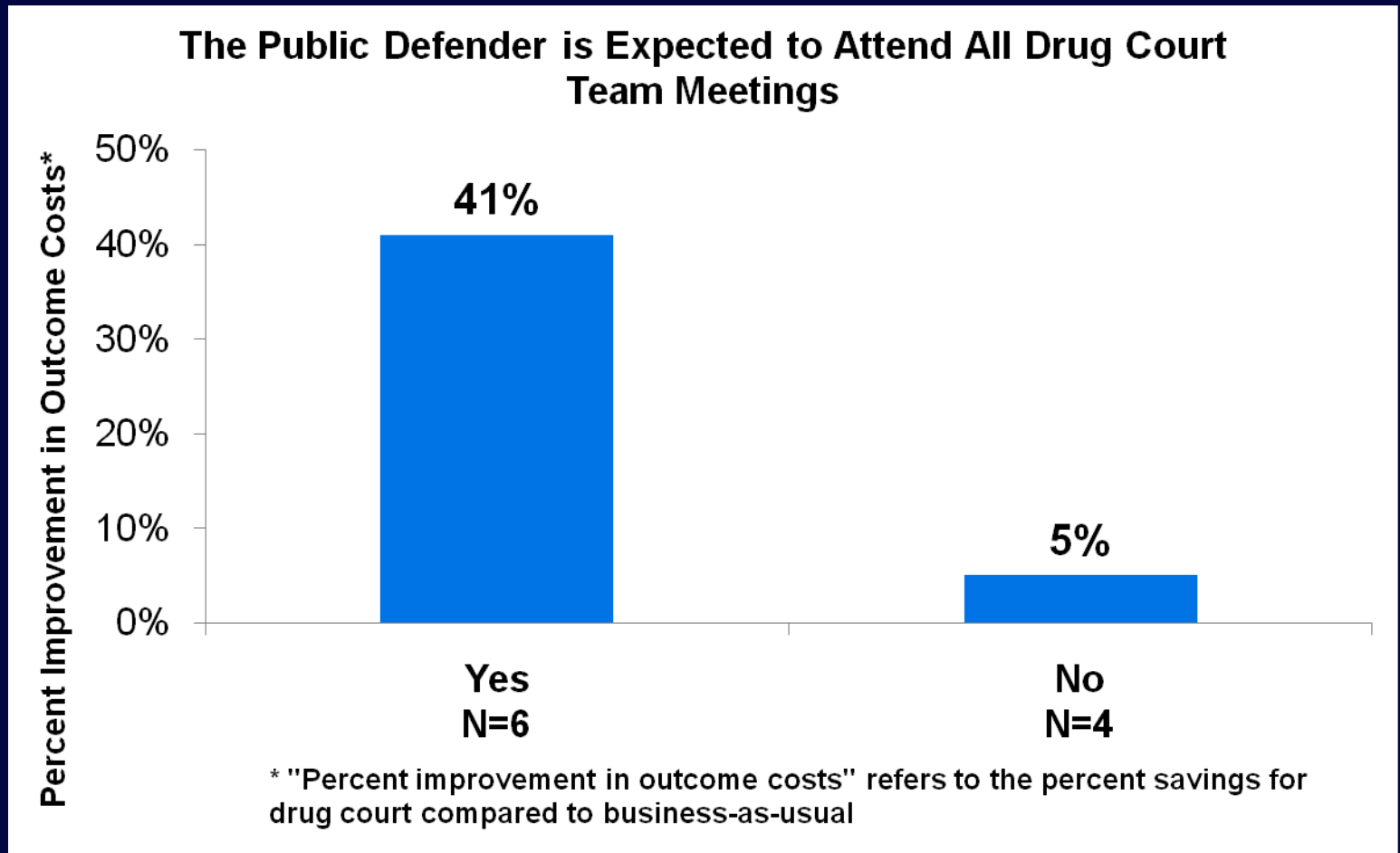
- Is it important for the attorneys to attend team meetings (“staffings”)?

Drug Courts That Required a Treatment Representative at Court Hearings Had 9 Times Greater Savings



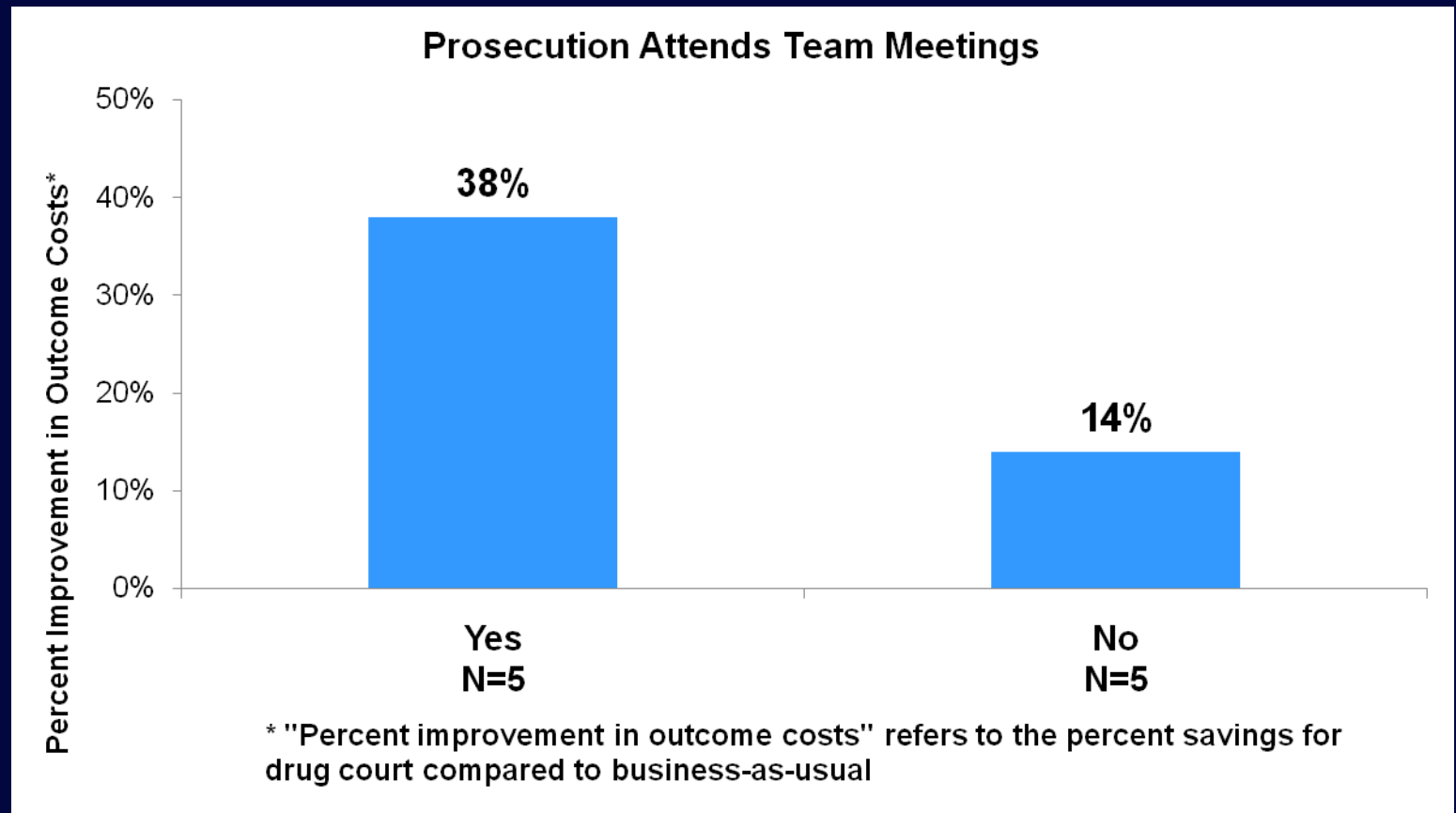
p<.05

Drug Courts That Expected the Public Defender to Attend All Team Meetings Had 8 Times Greater Savings



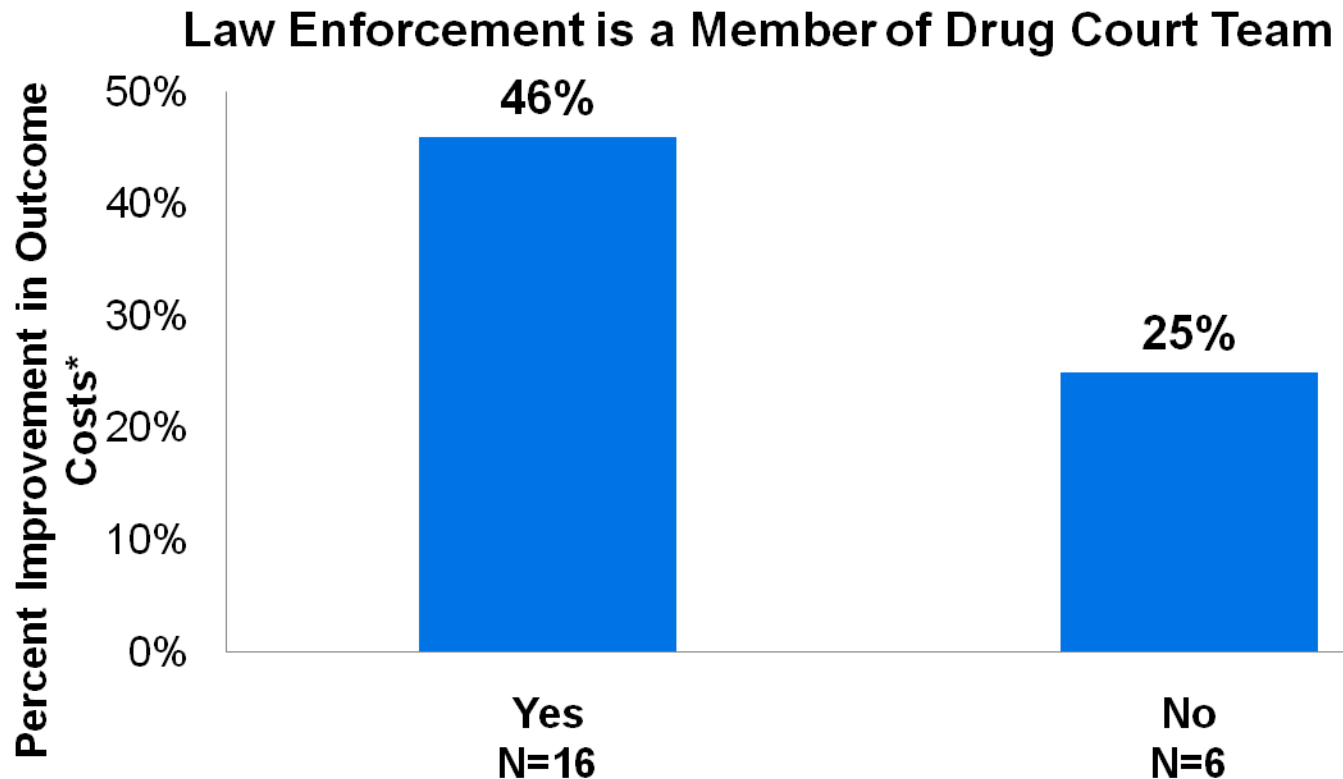
***p<.05**

Drug Courts That Expected the Prosecutor to Attend All Team Meetings Had More Than 2 Times Greater Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

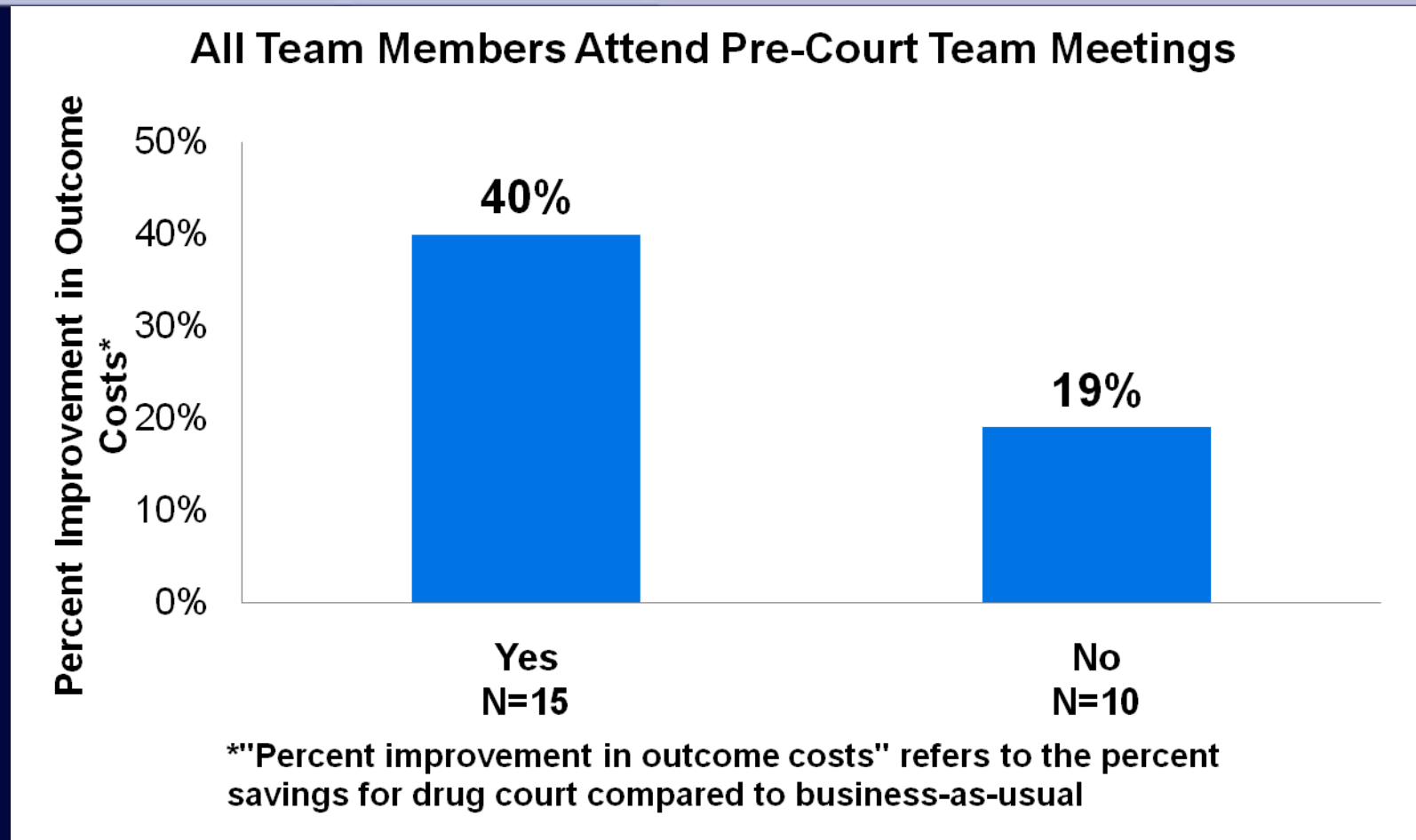
Drug Courts that Included Law Enforcement as a Member of the Team Had Greater Cost Savings



***"Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug Courts That Required All Team Members to Attend Staffings Had Twice the Savings



Note 1: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

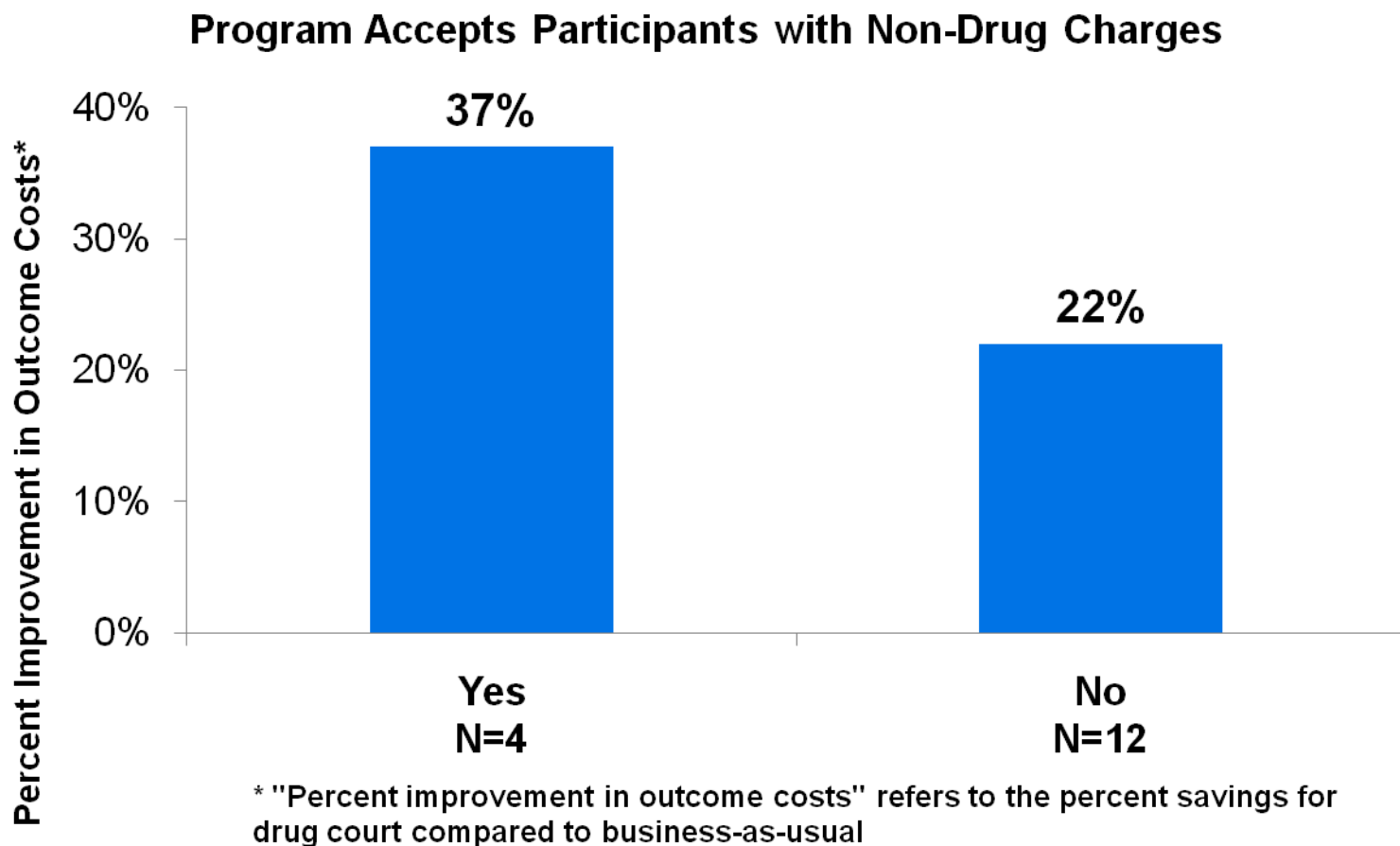
Note 2: "Team Members" = Judge, Both Attorneys, Treatment Provider, Coordinator

Non-Drug Charges

Does allowing non-drug charges threaten public safety?



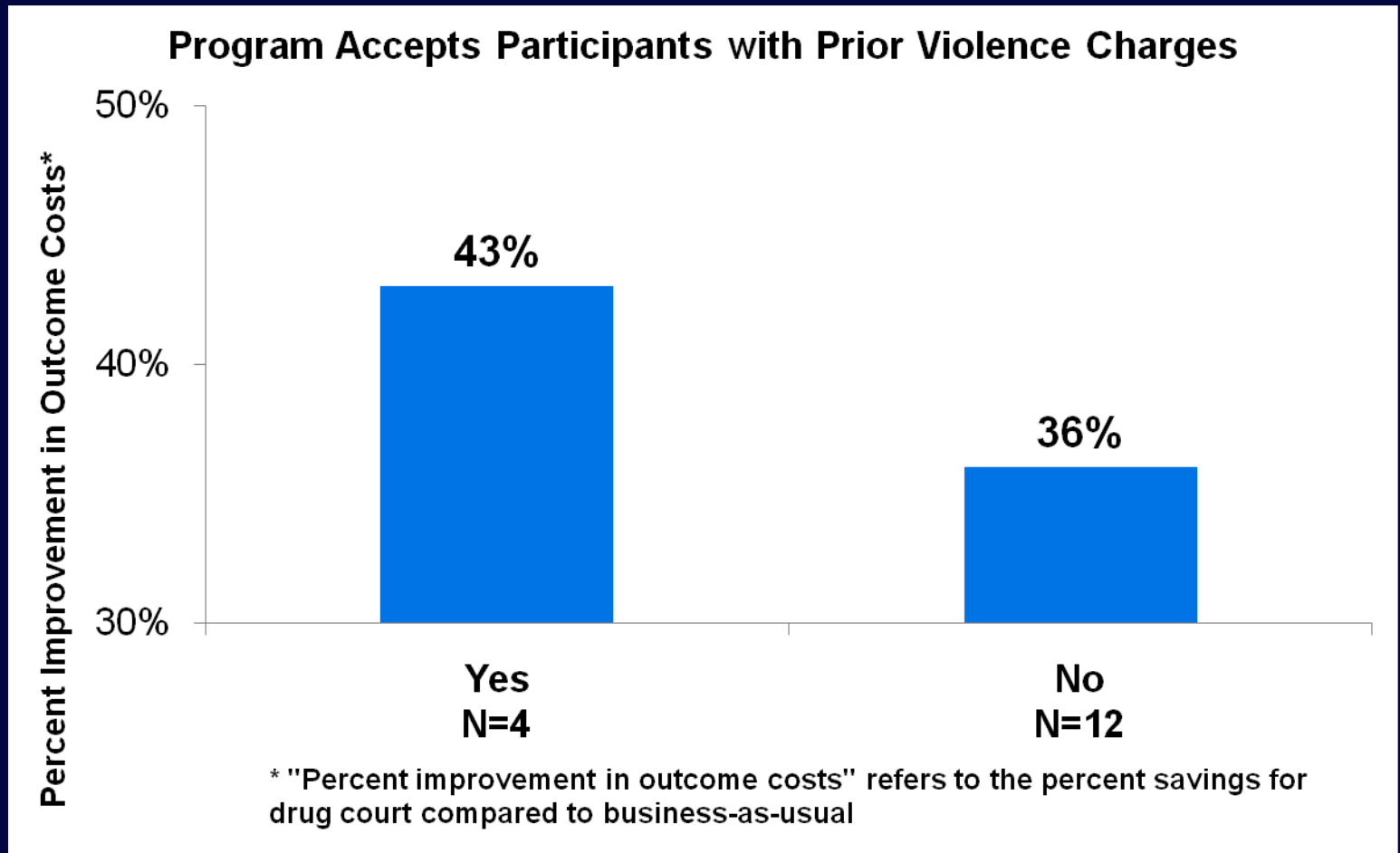
Drug Courts That Accepted Participants With Non-Drug Charges Had Nearly Twice the Savings



Note 1: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

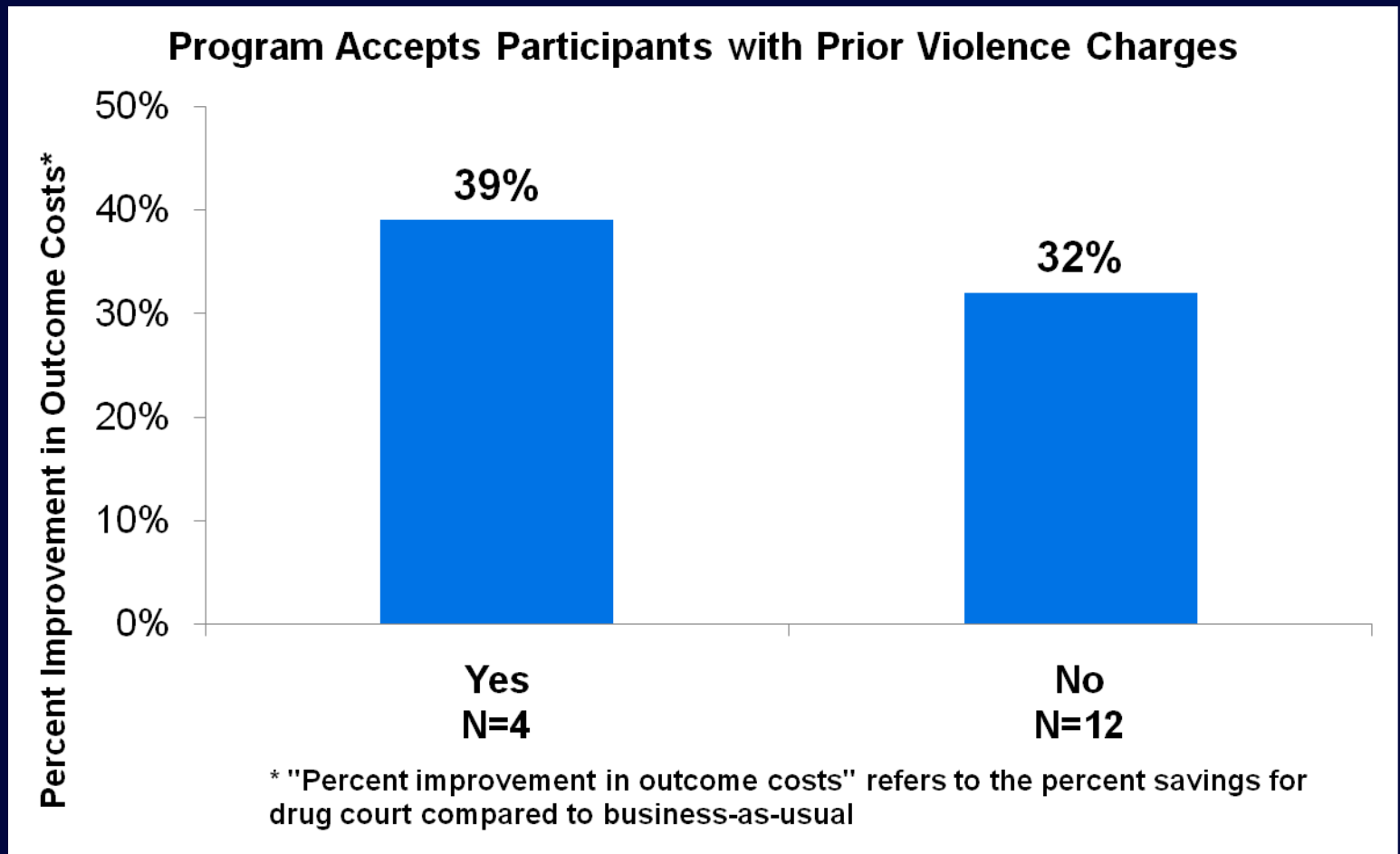
Note 2: Non-drug charges include property, prostitution, violence, etc.

Drug Courts That Accepted Participants with Prior Violence Had No Differences in Graduation Rates



Note: Difference is NOT significant

Drug Courts That Accepted Participants with Prior Violence Had No Differences in Cost Savings



Note: Difference is NOT significant

Key Component #3

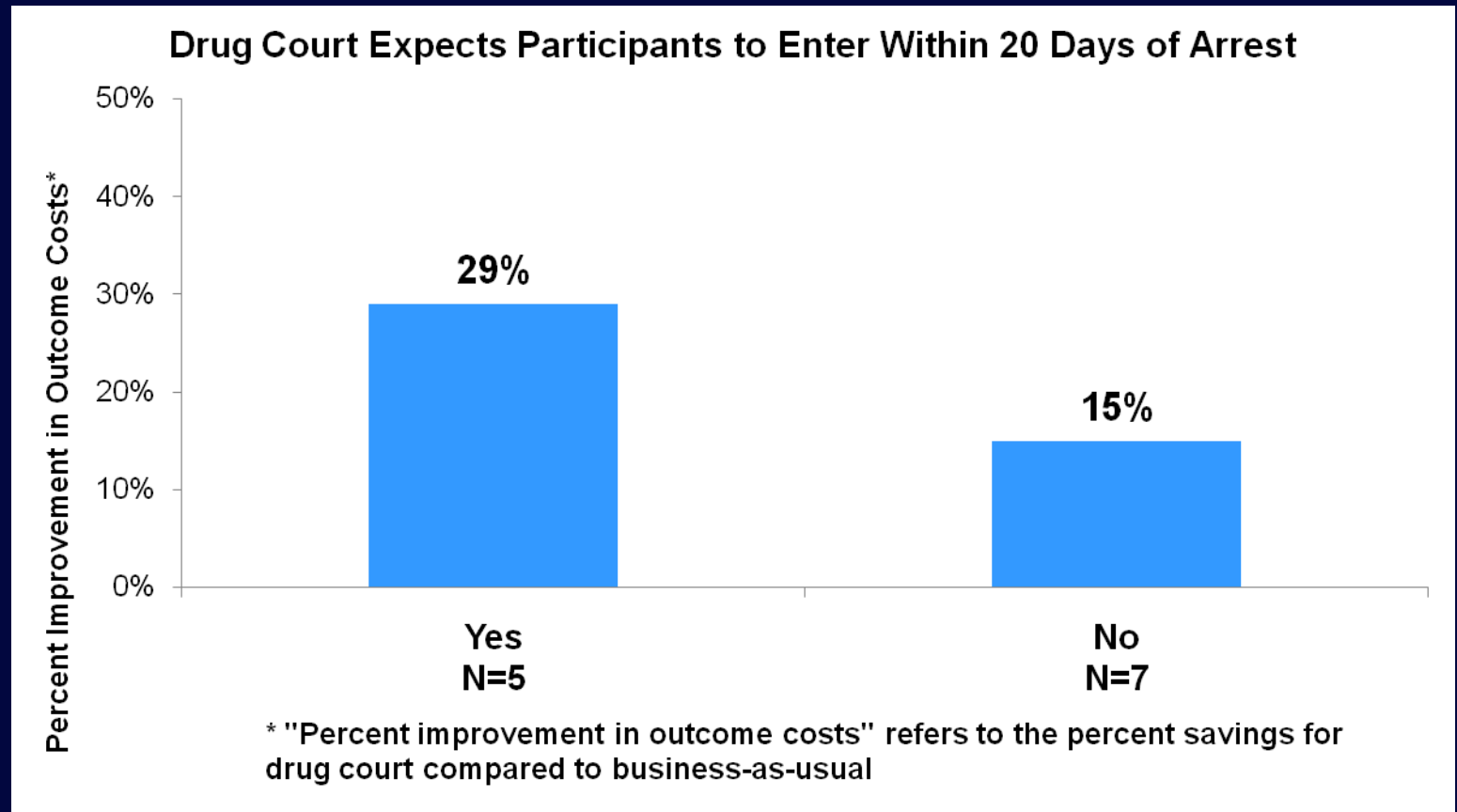
“Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.”

Prompt Treatment

- Is it really important to get participants into the program quickly? And what is quickly?



Drug Courts In Which Participants Entered the Program Within 20 Days of Arrest Had Twice the Savings



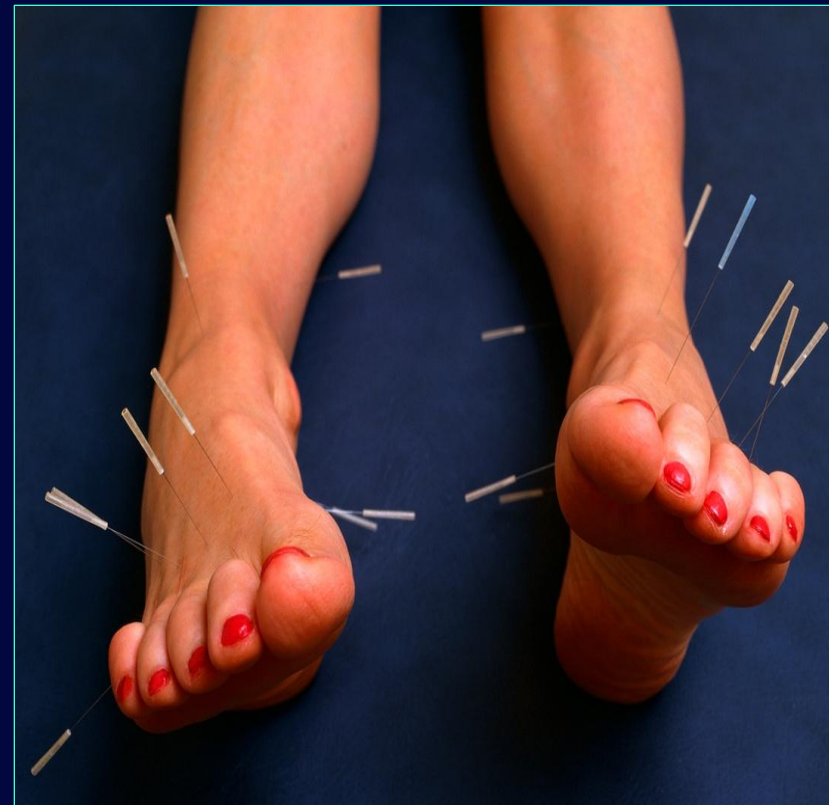
Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Key Component #4

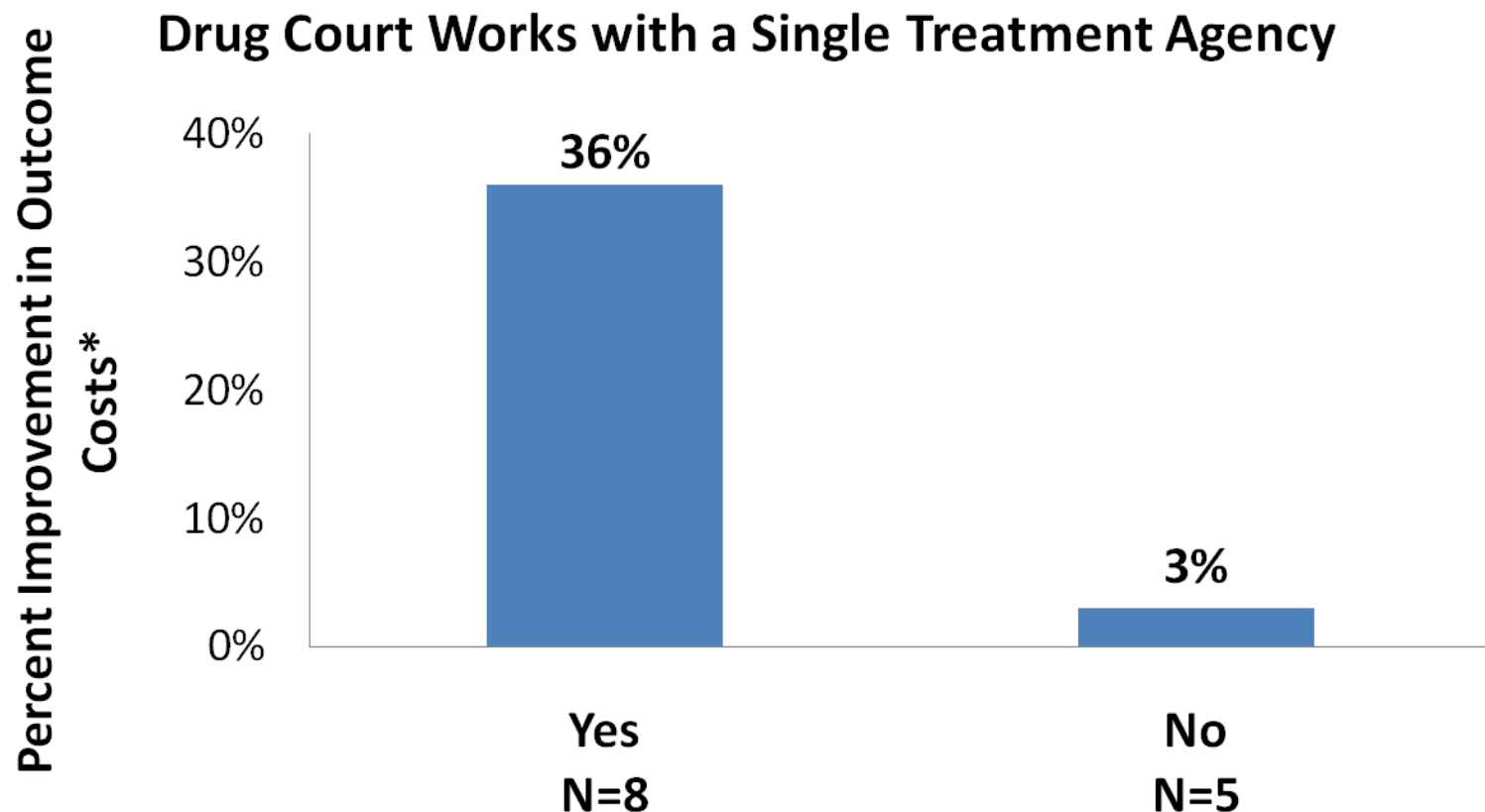
Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

Effective Treatment

- Is it better to have a single treatment agency or to have multiple treatment options?
- How important is relapse prevention?



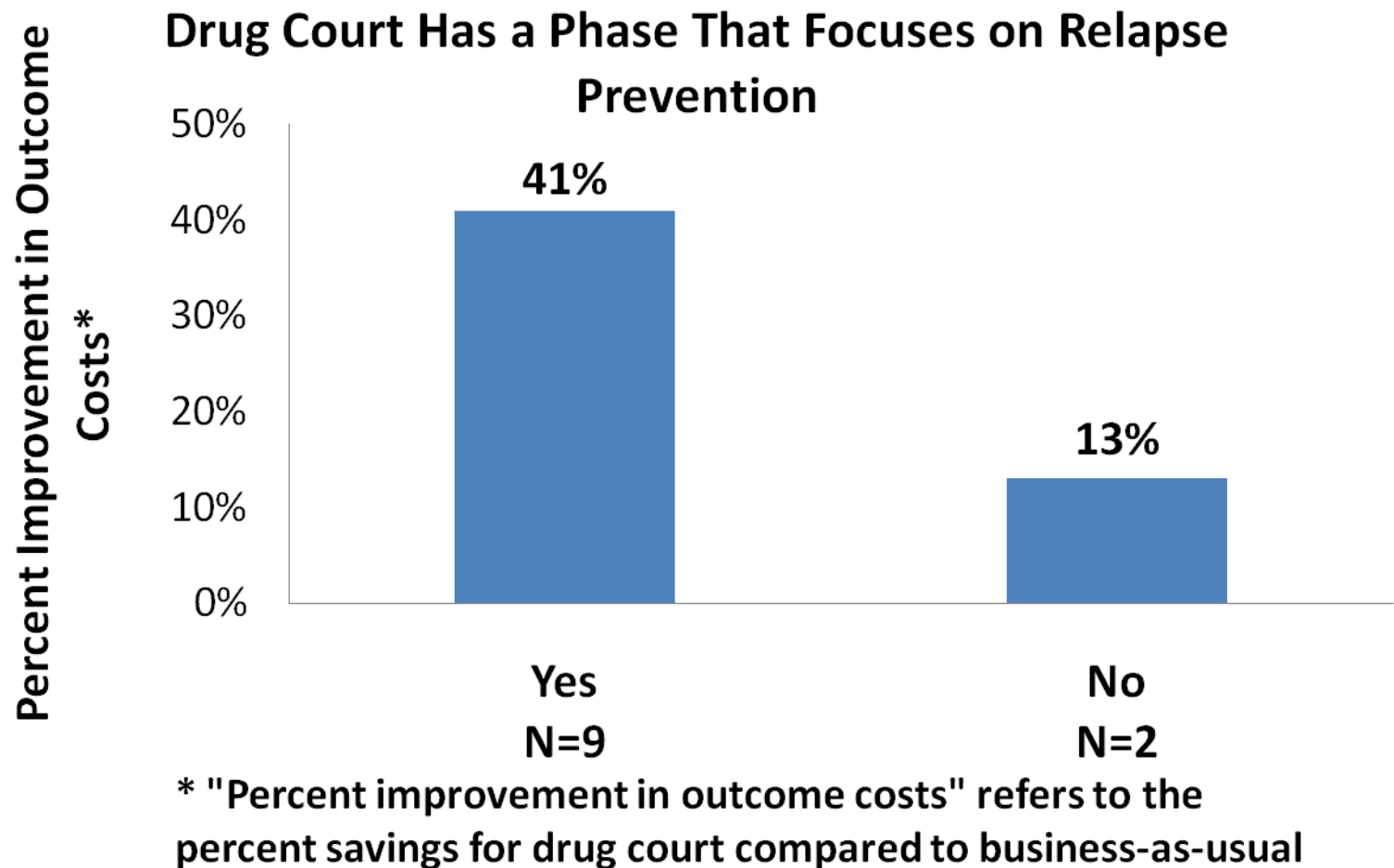
Drug Courts That Used a Single Coordinating Treatment Agency Had 10 Times Greater Savings



* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug Courts That Included a Phase Focusing on Relapse Prevention Had Over 3 Times Greater Savings



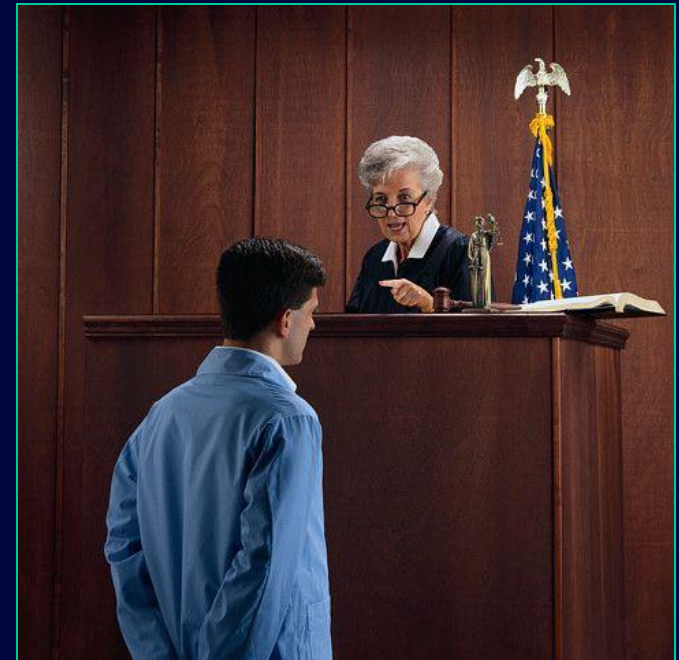
Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Key Component #7

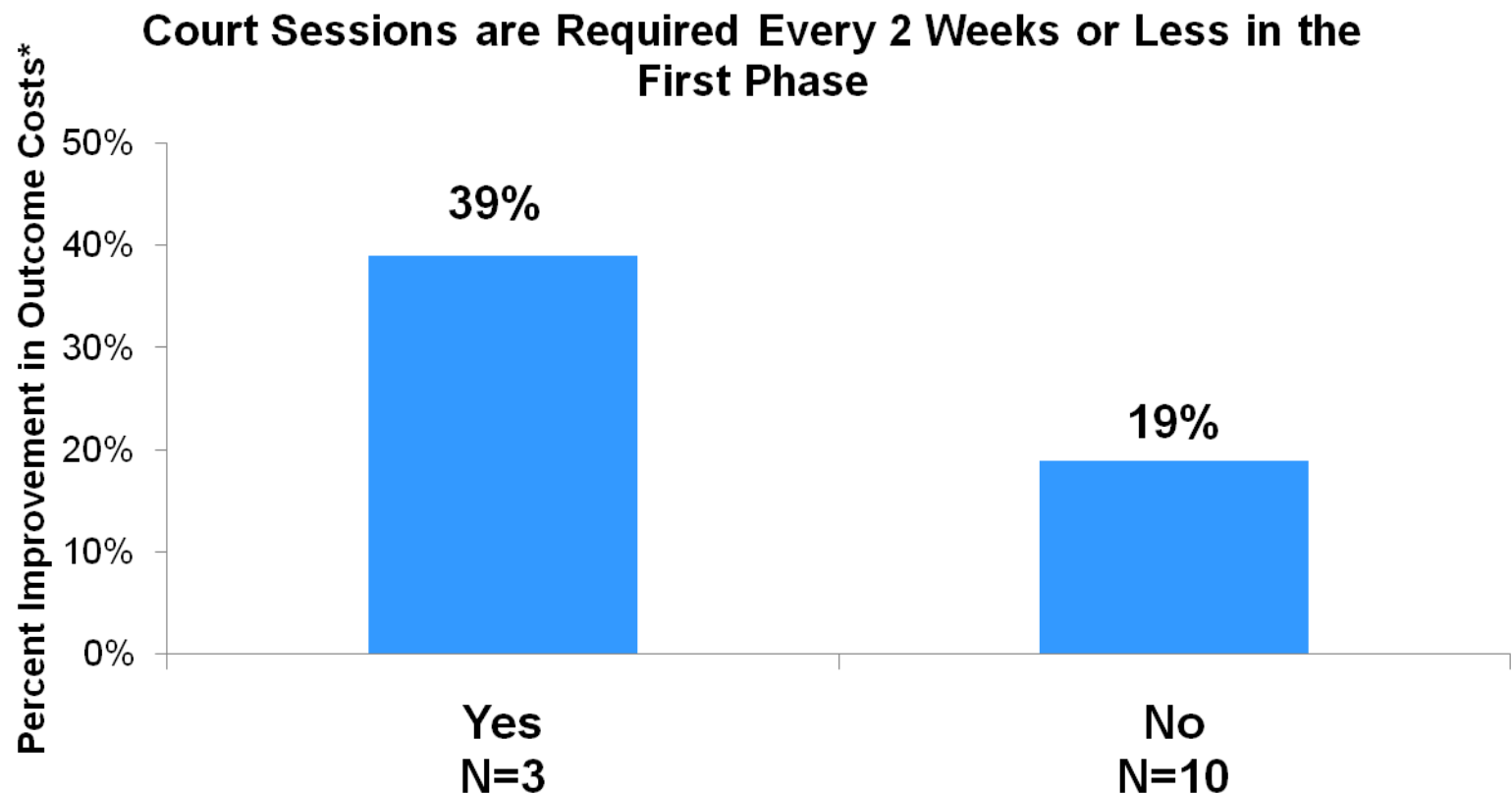
“Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.”

The Judge

- How often should participants appear before the judge?
- How long should the judge stay on the drug court bench? Is longevity better or is it better to rotate regularly?



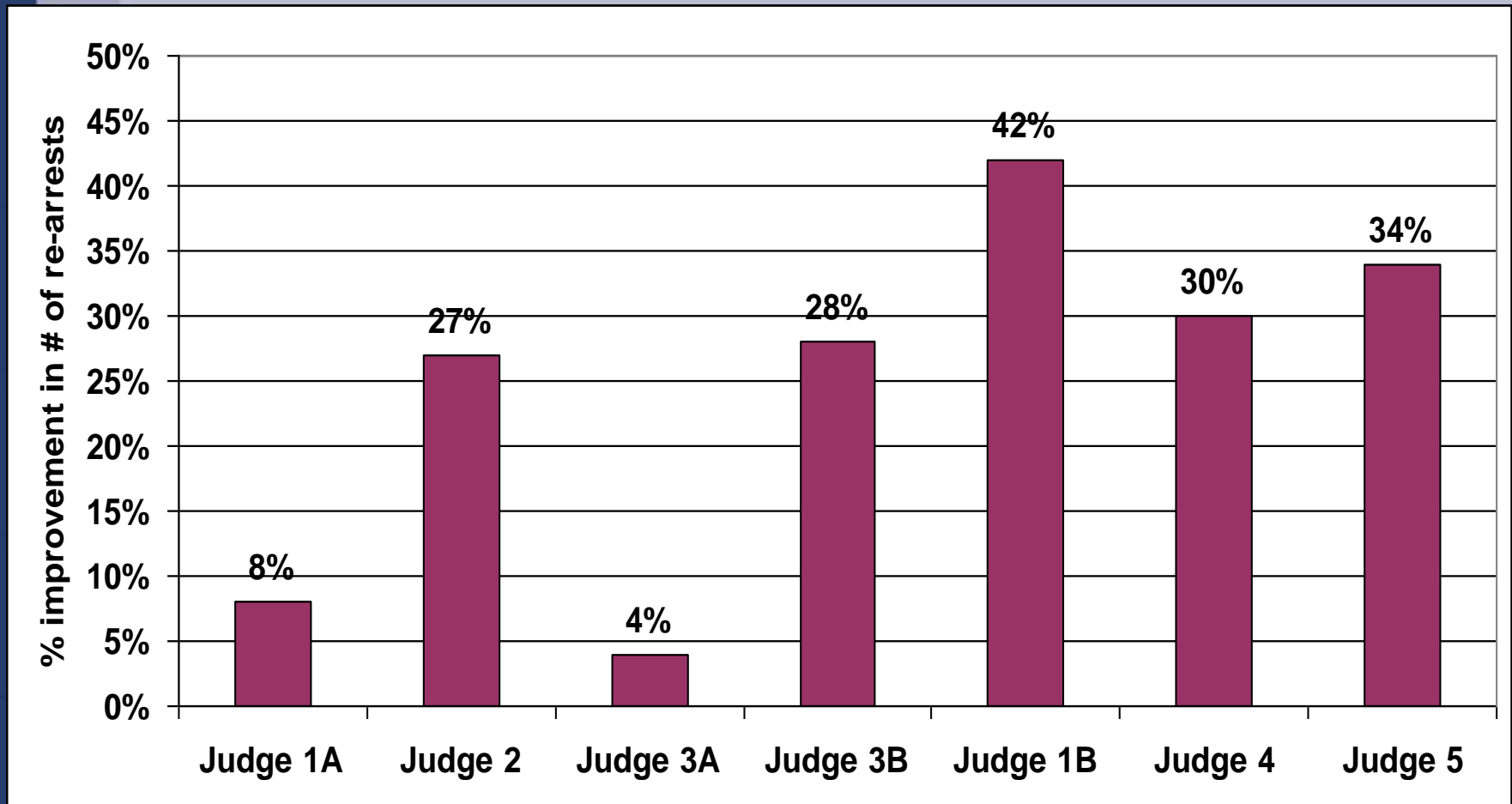
Drug Courts That Held Status Hearings Every 2 Weeks During Phase 1 Had 2 Times Greater Cost Savings



* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

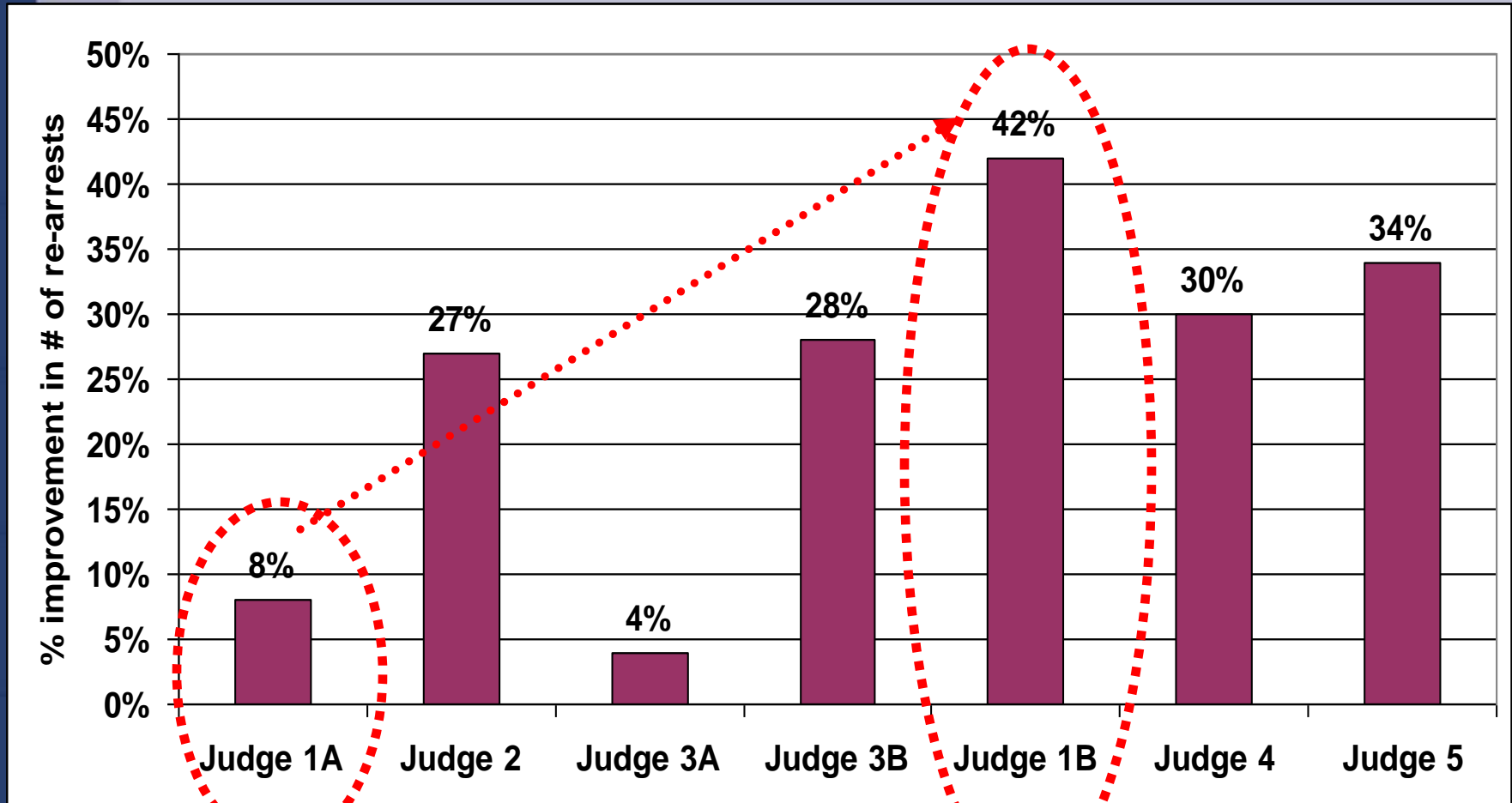
Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

The Longer the Judge Spent on the Drug Court Bench, the Better the Client Outcomes



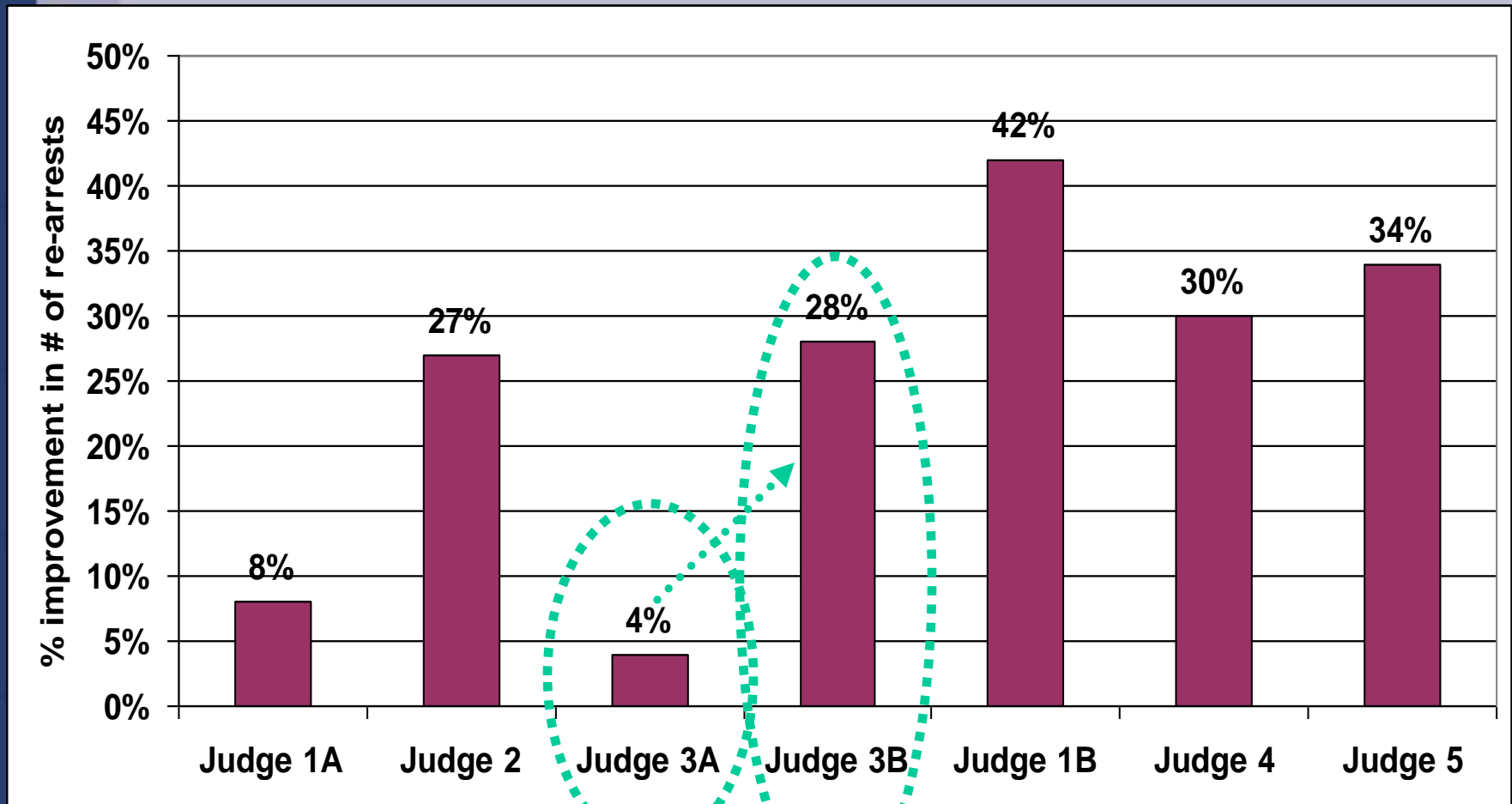
➤ Different judges had different impacts on recidivism

The Longer the Judge Spent on the Drug Court Bench, the Better the Client Outcomes



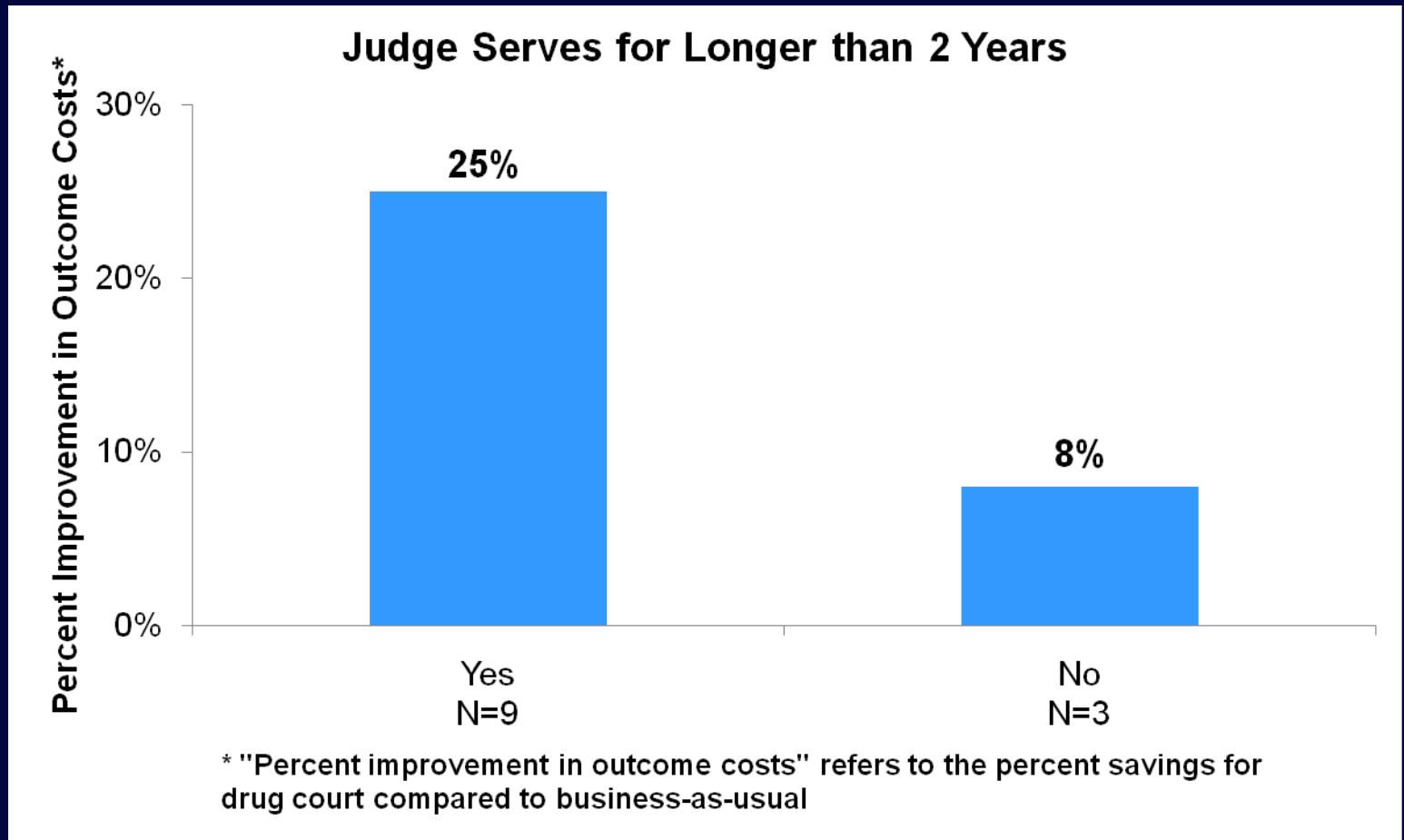
- Different judges had different impacts on recidivism
- **Judges did better their second time**

The Longer the Judge Spent on the Drug Court Bench, the Better the Client Outcomes



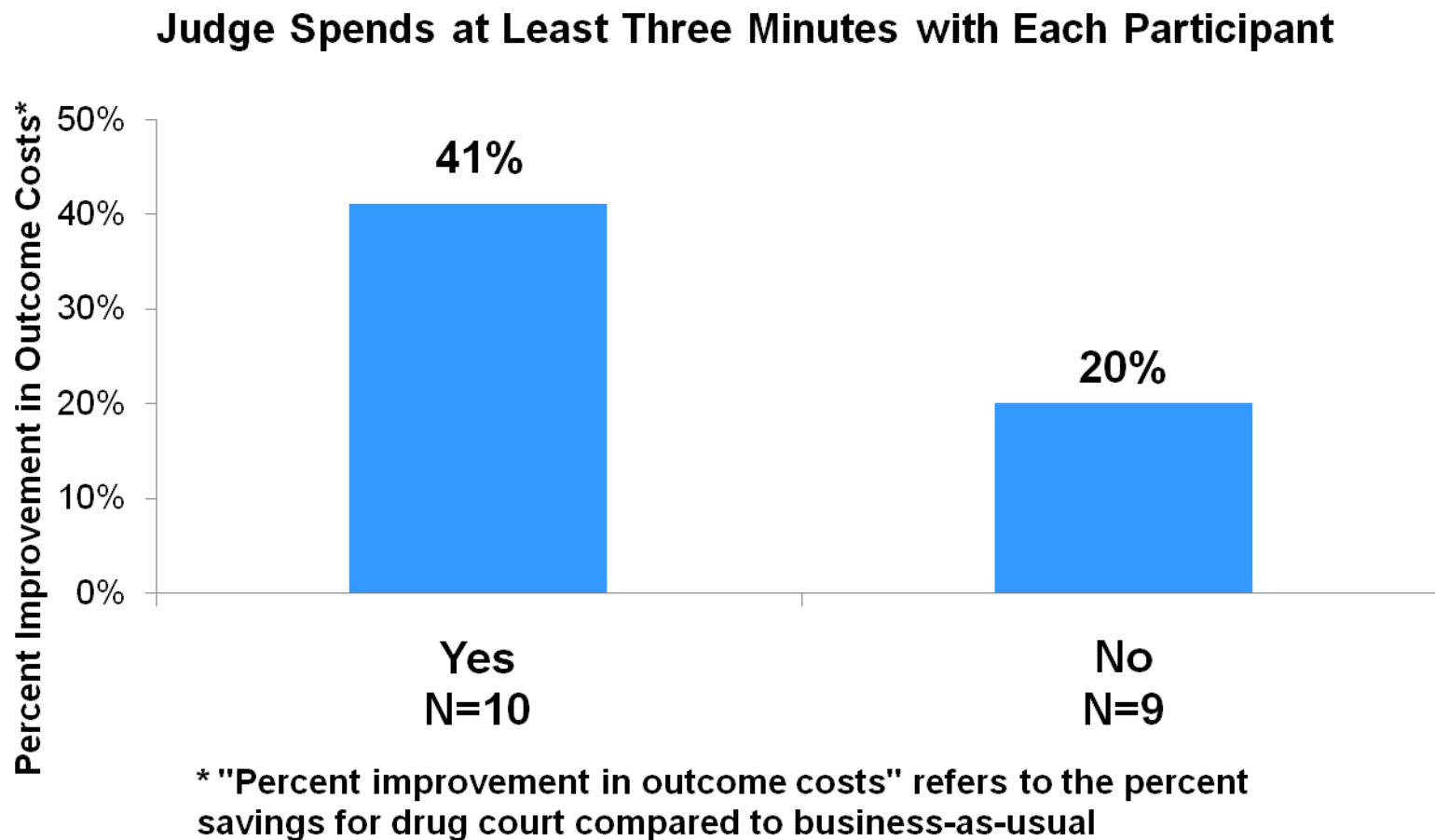
- Different judges had different impacts on recidivism
- **Judges did better their second time**

Drug Courts That Have Judges Stay Longer Than Two Years Had 3 Times Greater Cost Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Judges Who Spent at Least 3 Minutes Talking to Each Participant in Court Had More Than Twice the Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .1$

Key Component #5

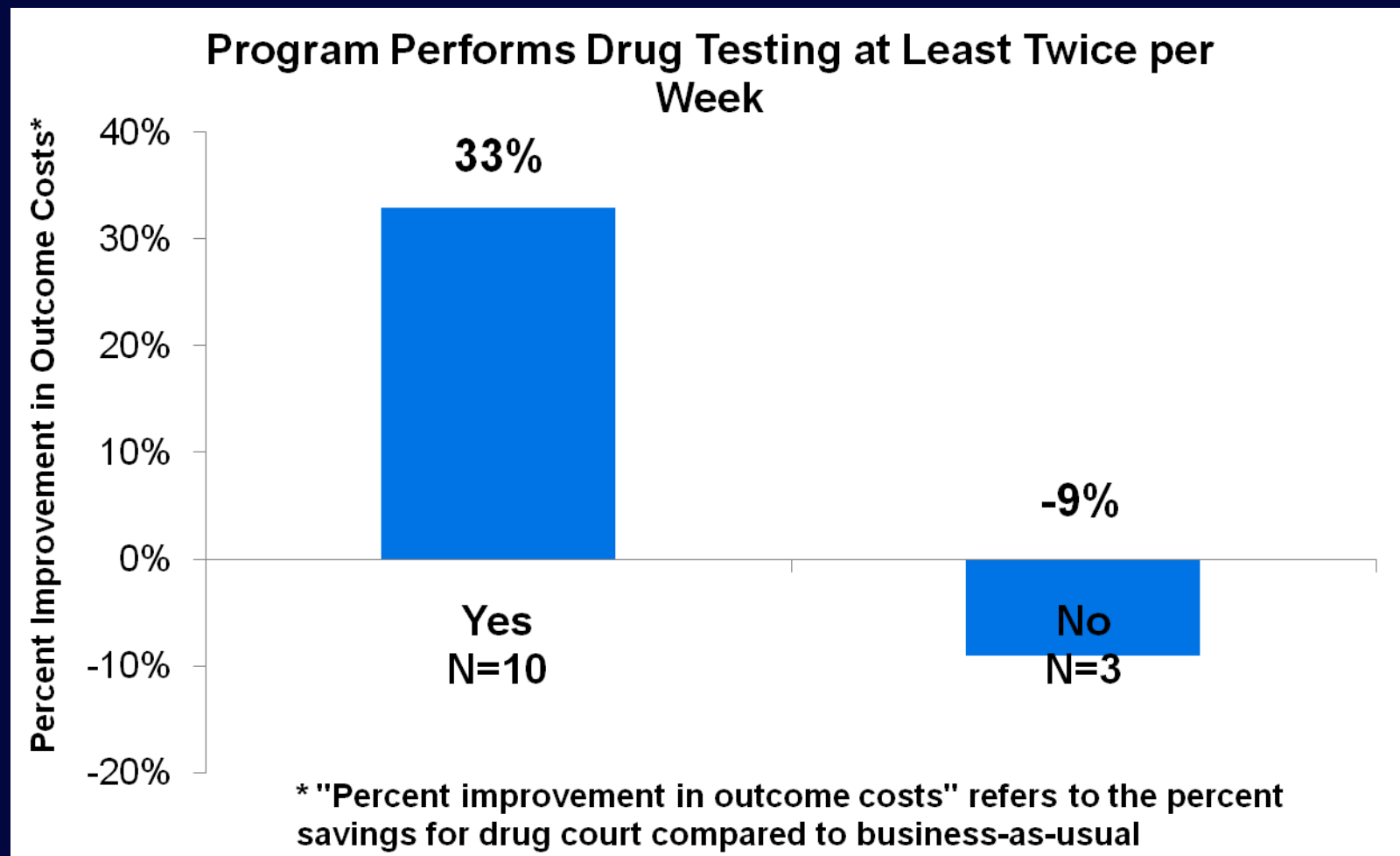
“Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.”

Drug Testing

- How frequently should participants be tested?
- How quickly should results be available to the team?

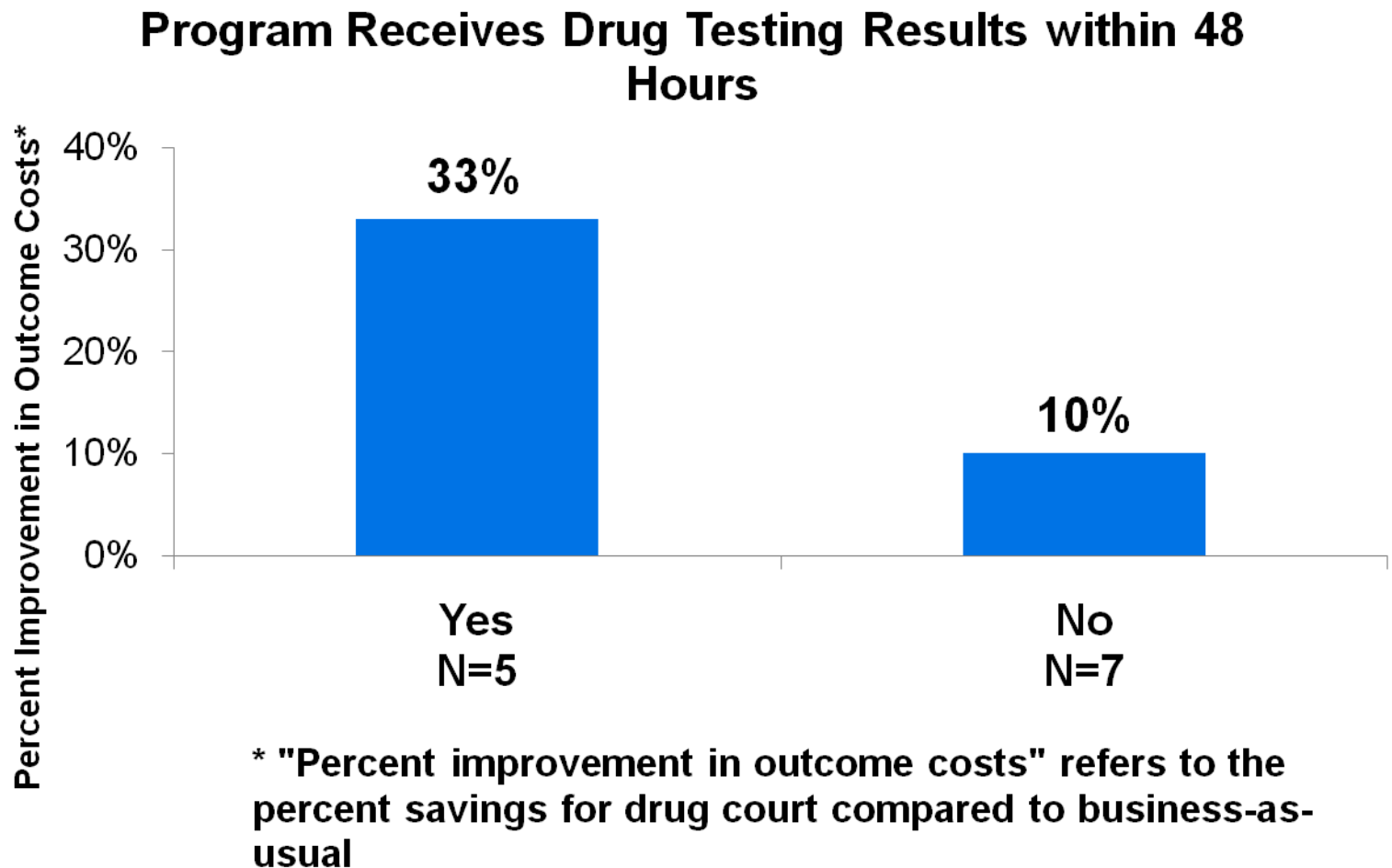


Drug Courts That Performed Drug Testing 2 or More Times Per Week During Phase 1 Had Savings



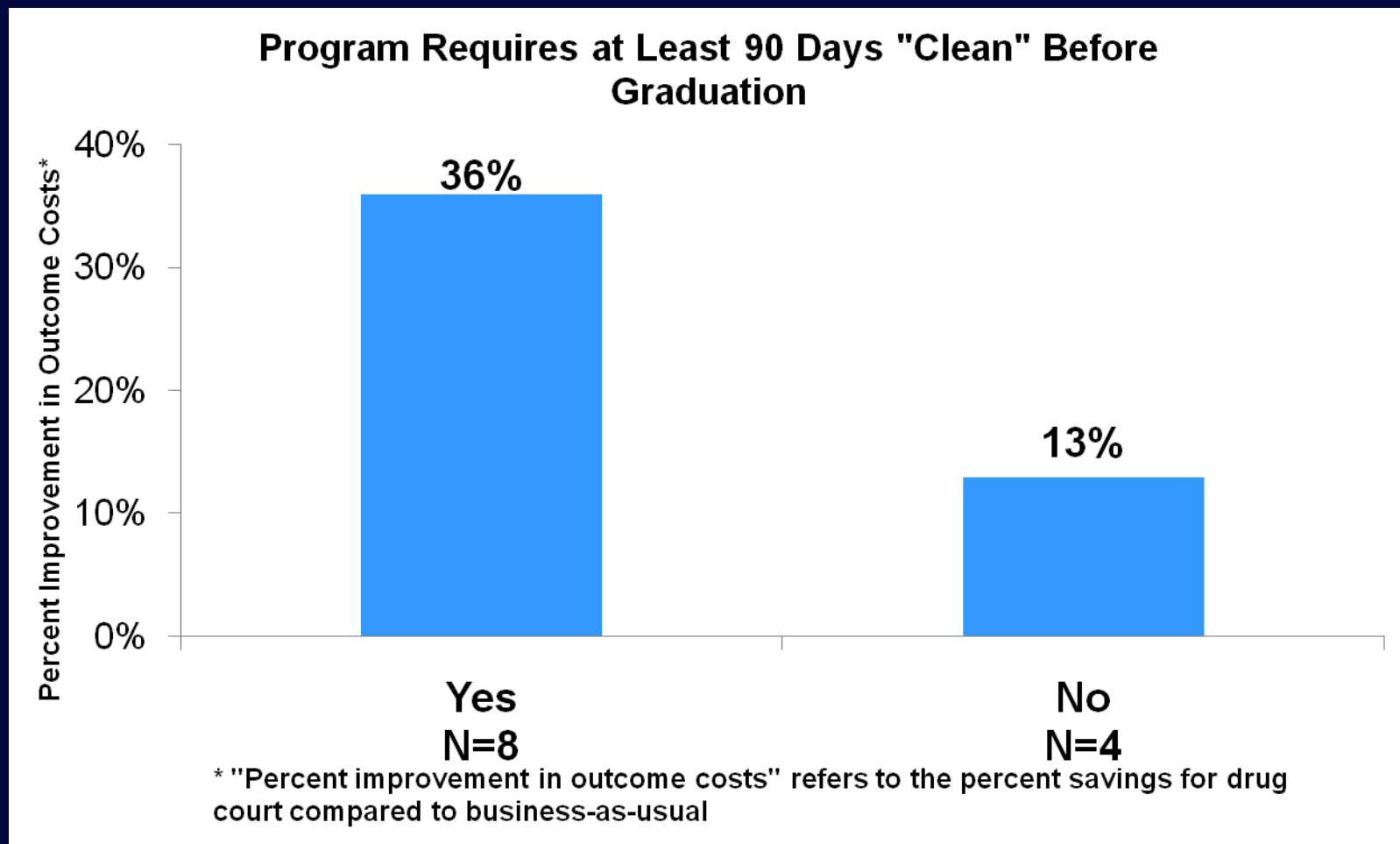
Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug Courts That Received Drug Test Results Within 48 Hours Had 3 Times Greater Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug Courts That Required Greater Than 90 Days of Abstinence Had Larger Cost Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

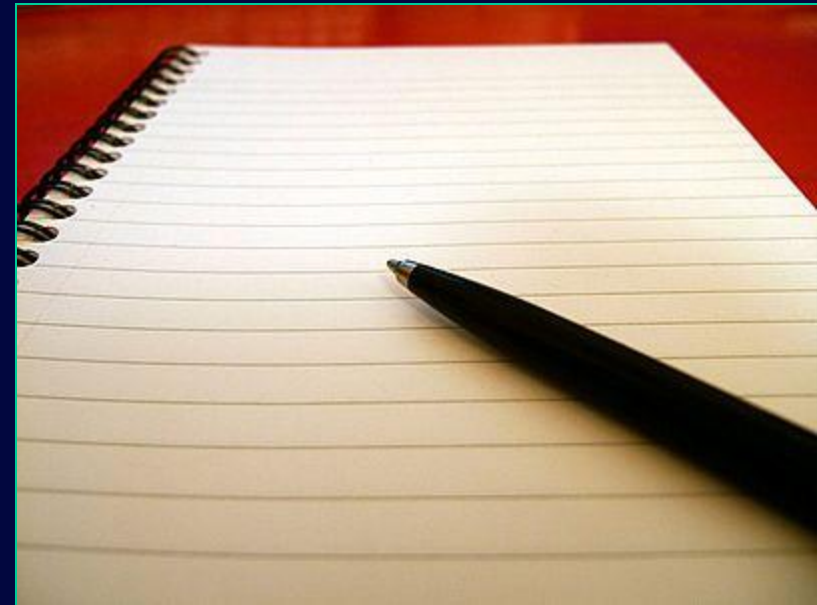
Key Component #6

“Drug courts establish a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of responses, to continuing drug use and other noncompliant behavior . . .

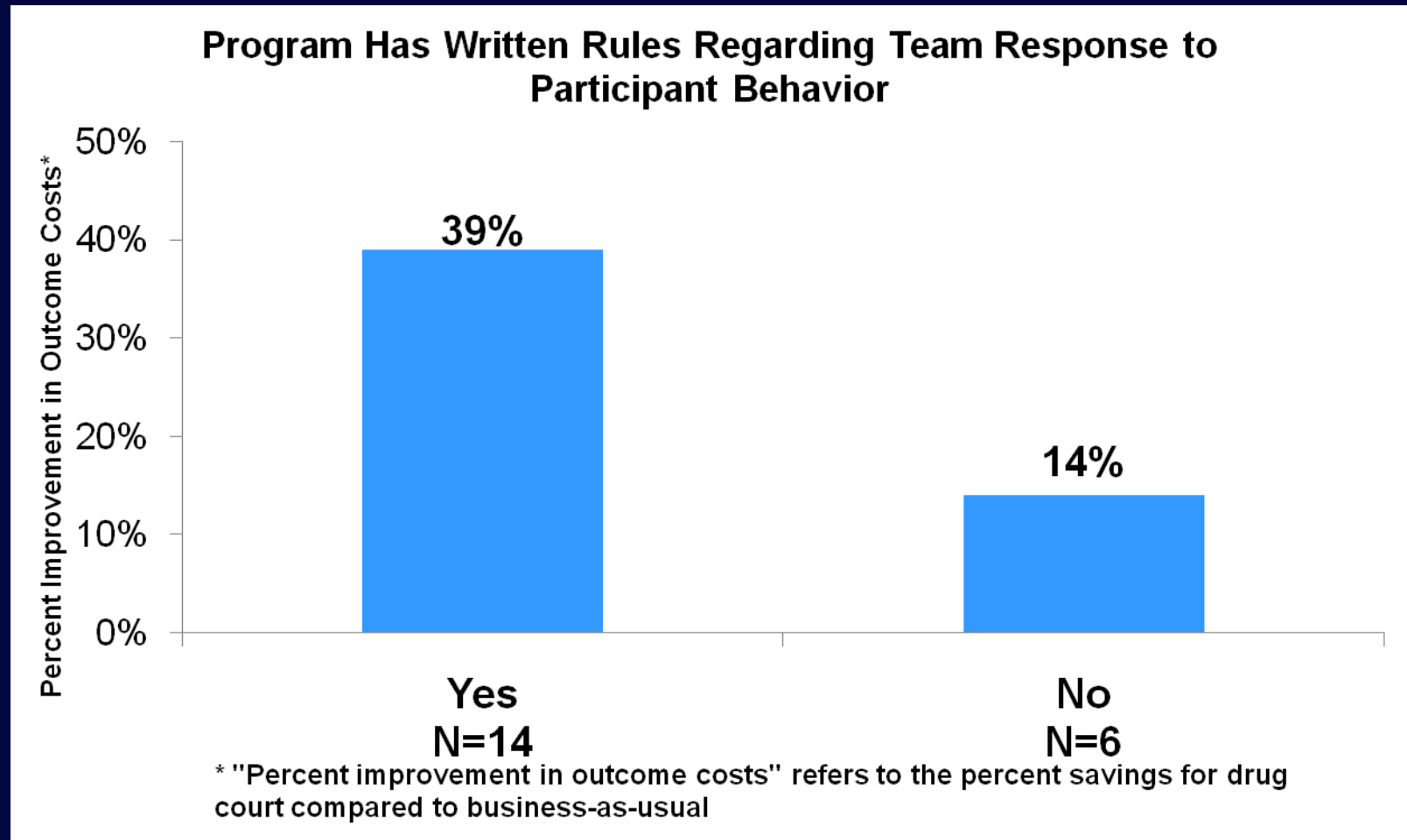
Reponses to or sanctions for noncompliance might include . . . escalating periods of jail confinement”

Written Sanction and Incentive Guidelines

- Do your guidelines on team responses to client behavior really need to be in writing?



Drug Courts That Had Written Rules for Team Responses Had Nearly 3 Times the Cost Savings



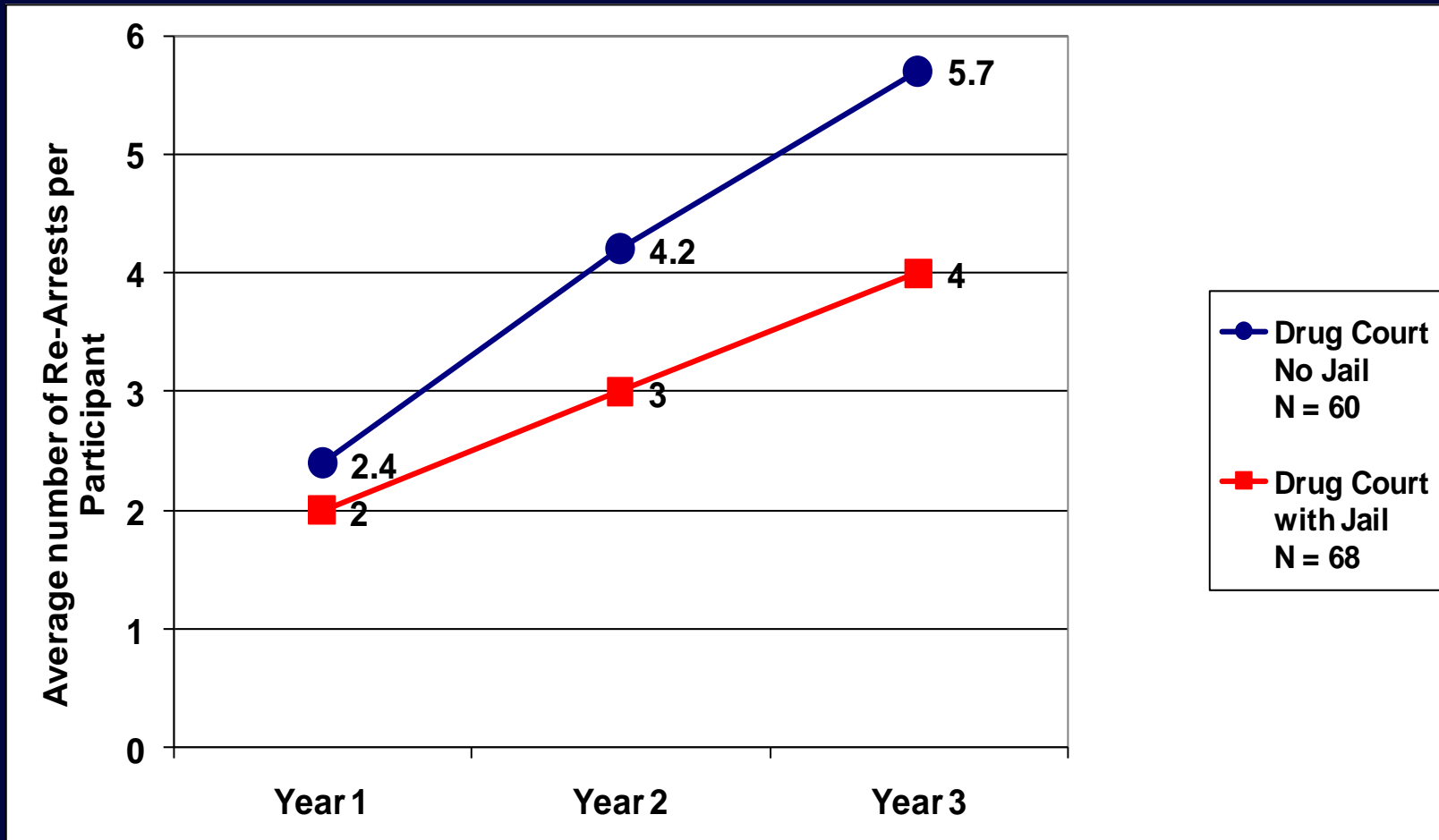
Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Jail



- **How important is jail as a sanction?**

Participants Facing the Possibility of Jail as a Sanction Had Lower Recidivism



- Drug court with same judge and same team had better outcomes for participants when the option of jail as a sanction was available

Key Component #9

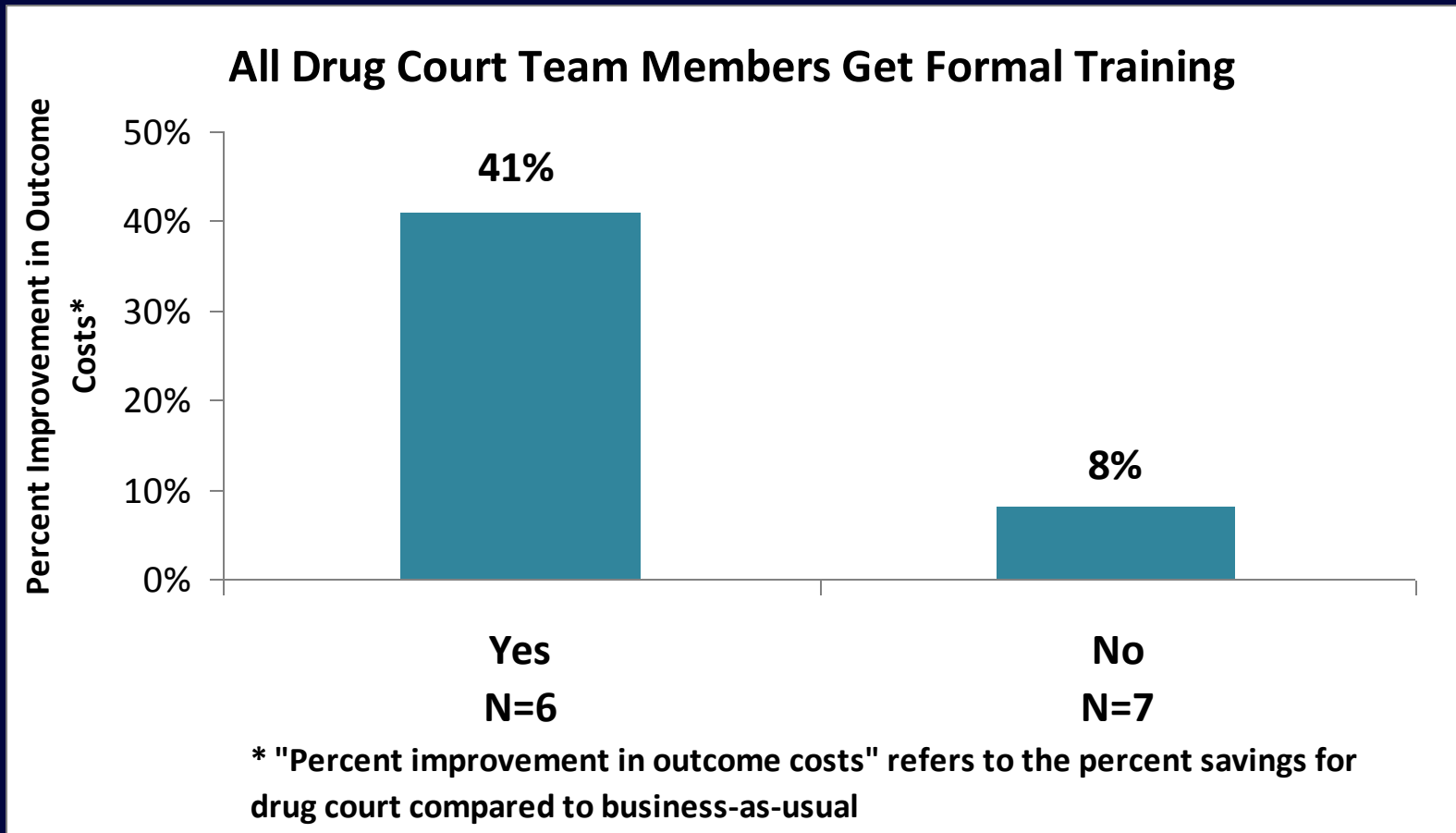
“Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.”

Training

- How important is formal training for team members?
- Who should be trained?
- *When* should team members get trained?

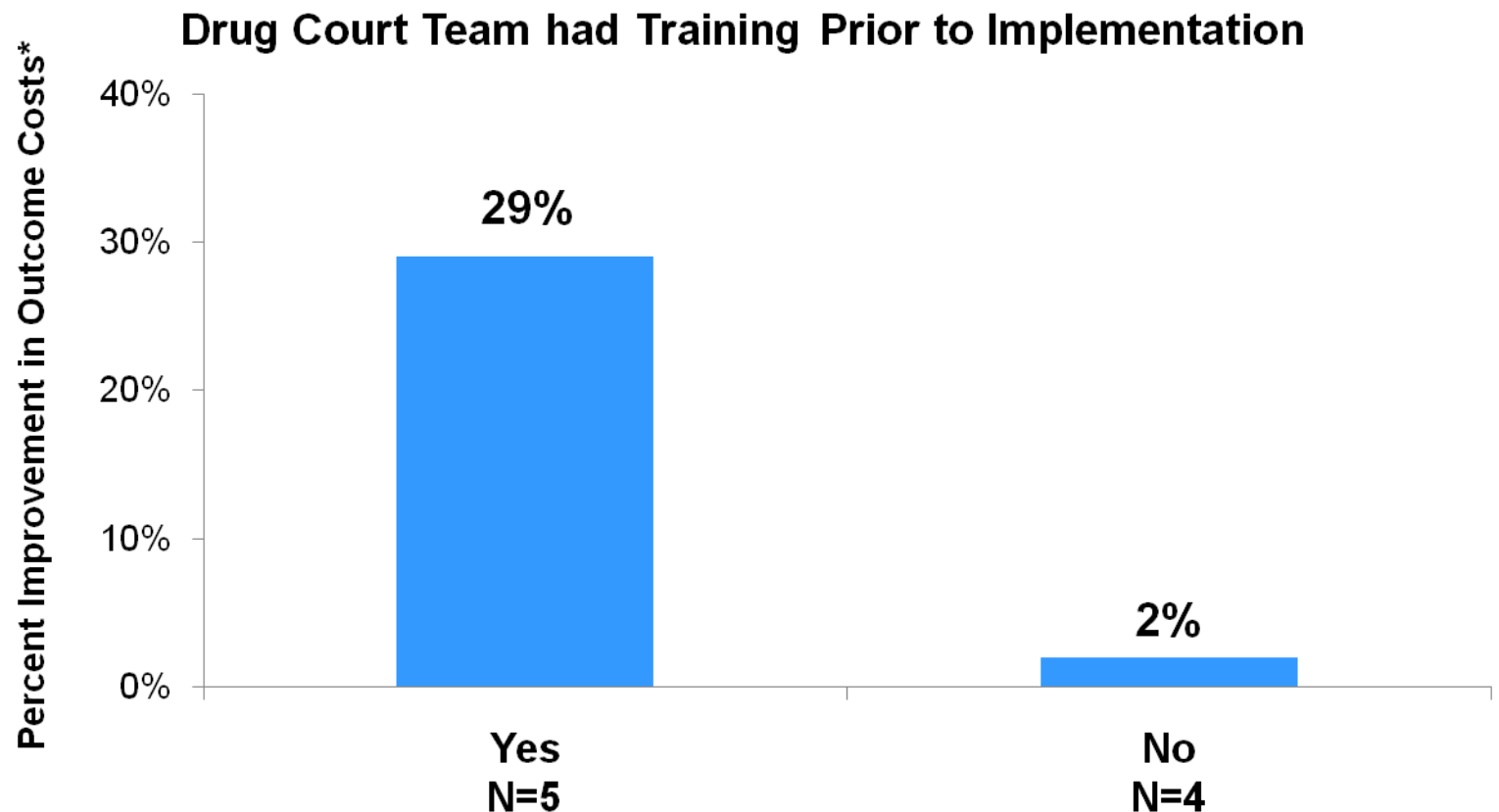


Drug Courts That Provided Formal Training for All Team Members Had 5 Times Greater Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug Courts That Received Training Prior to Implementation Had 15 Times Greater Cost Savings



* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Key Component #8

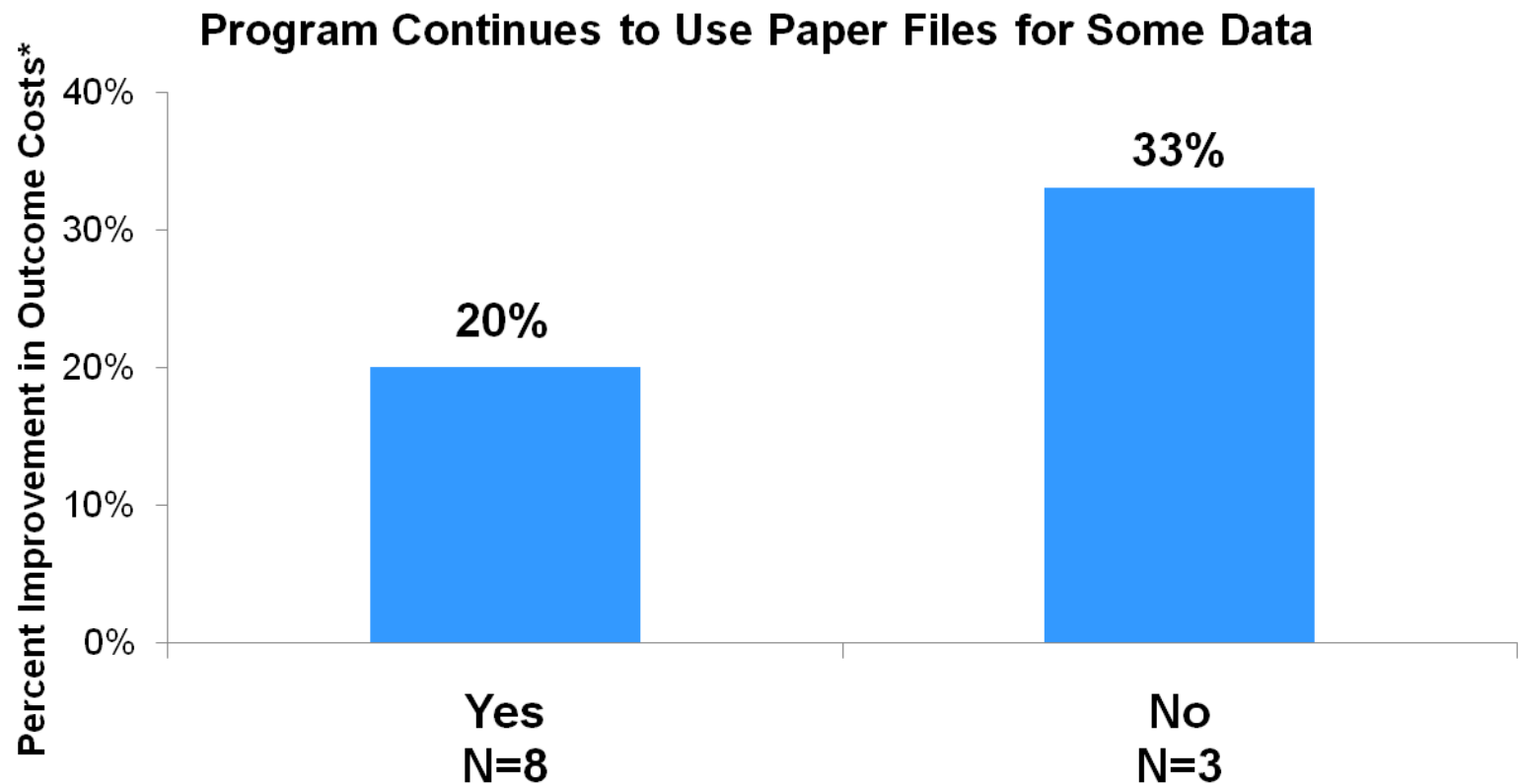
“Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.”

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Does it matter whether data are kept in paper files or in a database?
- Does keeping program stats make a difference?
- Do you really need an evaluation? What do you get out of it?



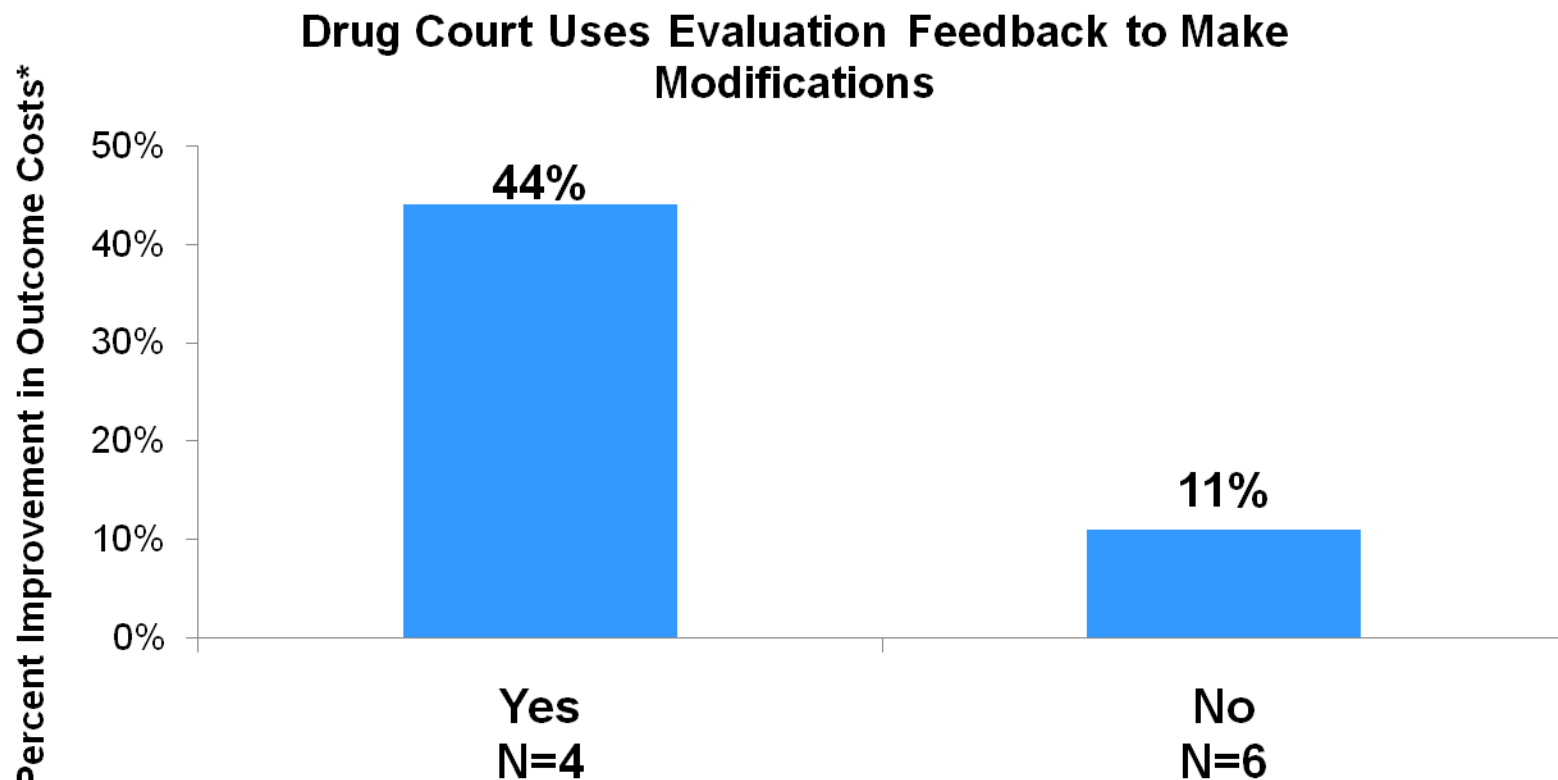
Drug Courts That Used Paper Files Rather Than Electronic Databases Had Less Savings



* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug Courts That Used Evaluation Feedback to Make Modifications Had 4 Times Greater Cost Savings



* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Key Component #10

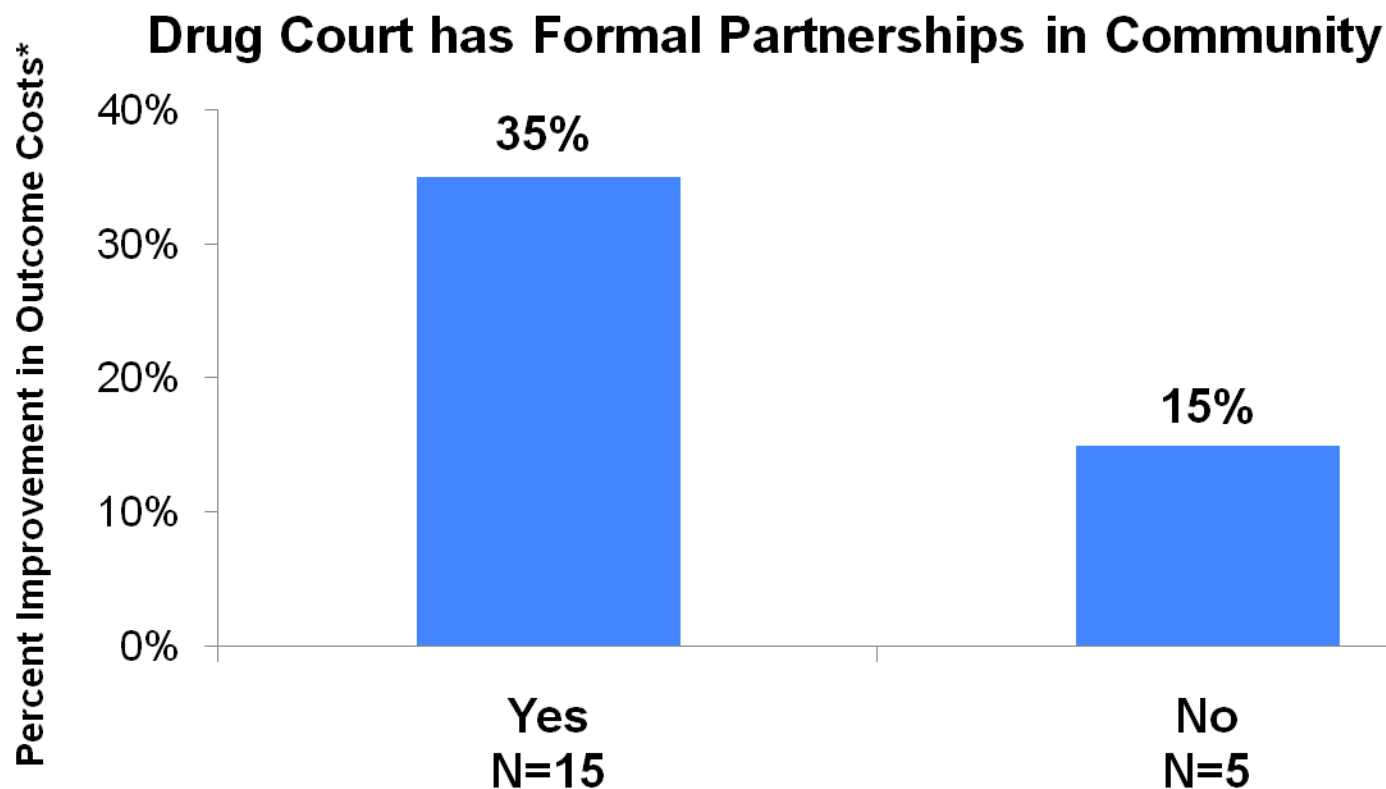
“Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.”

Community Partnerships

- **How important are partnerships in the community for your drug court?**



Drug Courts That Had Formal Partnerships with Community Organizations Had More than Twice the Savings



* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Note: Difference is significant as a trend at $p < .15$

Recipes for Failure

- Water down the intervention

- Drop essential elements

◀.....

“It’s not scalable”

- Accept imitations

◀.....

“We’re just like a drug court”



Recipes for Failure

- Change course with new populations



“It won’t work here”

“My clients are different”

Recipes for Failure

- **Stepped Care**

- **Start with less and ratchet up if you need to**

“It’s more economical”

“It’s less burdensome on clients”



Recipes for Failure

- Target the wrong people
 - 1st-time offenders
 - Low risk and low needs

..... “It’s safer”

..... “It’s a form of prevention”

..... “They’re more deserving”



Recipe for Success

- Send us the high-value cases
- Fidelity to the *10 Key Components* until proven otherwise!
- Ongoing judicial authority
- Inter-agency team approach
- Branching model
 - Get it right the first time

